



グリモワール × リバーズ

～転生鬼神浪漫譚～

著: 藍藤遊 イラスト: エナミカツミ

#02

Grimoire x Reverse

~Reincarnated Demon Romance Tale~

Arc 2 - The Demon Nine-tails and the Magic
Librarian

by Katsumi Enami

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「悪かったわね。
そんなに凹むと思わなかったのよ」

「ひねね。食べ物の恨みは希まなだ。
ス々の国子楽しまひなだ」
「……アハハ」



クリエール
リバーズ 2巻
よろしくお願いします☆

Chapter 1: The Silverwhite Highway [An Opponent you do not Want as an Enemy]

The Silverwhite Highway.

It is one of the places that connects the Hana Flower forest and the Empire a road filled with silvery tiles. Apparently, all the tiles once froze over by a sudden temperature change that occurred when a local research facility of the Imperial Academy took energy from different phases.

Moreover, it seems that the special magic contained an aqueous solution that coated it in moisture, which hardened and remained silverwhite even at room temperature. There is no influence on the surrounding trees, and the small monsters and creatures live normally. Among them, there is a carnivorous beast to be cautious of that projects dart-like weapons.

“That was quite a walk.” (Shuten)

“Why not run? We both have business there.” (Hiragi)

“Oh, don’t say that. It isn’t bad to enjoy the journey and walk to see the sights.” (Shuten)

“I don’t follow you.” (Hiragi)

“Why are you in such a hurry? Is it because of this Taros-san?” (Shuten)

“...Taros V doesn’t matter.” (Hiragi)

“I see.” (Shuten)

Good company is a mercy that makes the road shorter.

I’ve said it before, but it is hard living in a society that shows no mercy to demons. I’d like to go to the town where demons live, but I can’t go yet because I would probably be beaten up before I get there, and in any case I need to travel with Hiragi.

I have the ability of a mid-boss, so next time I would like to find out what a pair of pearl pieces can do. Though I think the goddess might get mad at such a use of the pearl pieces.

Well, because of that I was able to get a travel companion.

The person from just a moment ago, the strong girl with nine tails, Hiragi-chan (Around 200 years old or so). With silverwhite hair that complements the highway and nine fluffy tails that are a charming point – though she hasn't let me touch them since that time.

Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding she made a contract and became my kindred.

“...I haven't heard you ask, why I am heading to the Empire.” (Hiragi)

“No, I've heard the reason. Taros-san, right? Hehe.” (Shuten)

“I've already said that's not it.” (Hiragi)

“I don't mean to be indifferent, but it seems like you really don't want to touch on this subject, so I don't want it to interfere with our future relationship. It would be an awkward journey you know?” (Shuten)

“I didn't know you cared to enjoy a journey so much...well, it's okay. Thank you.” (Hiragi)

“U-i.” (Shuten) (うーい)

Enjoy the journey? Well I guess so.

As we proceed along the silver road, at a certain point monsters no longer come out. In addition to the village getting close, is it because there are fewer trees to hide behind?

As we continue walking the plants around us steadily decrease in height and the view becomes clearer. The sunlight shone brightly on the grasses and felt nice. It was a great day to walk, as the clouds flowed by peacefully. Occasionally swaying in the breeze, the wind-blown grass made a rustling sound.

“...I really am enjoying it.” (Hiragi)

“Hm?” (Shuten)

“It's nothing...it's already fine. But there is something like a rest stop nearby, would you like to take a break?” (Hiragi) “Oh, that sounds nice.” (Shuten)

On one side was a small hut, standing alone. There was a bench facing east

ward, towards the wind. It was a place similar in appearance to a bakery.

How very pleasant.

“You don’t need to feel threatened, as demons are welcome.” (Hiragi)

“How about that, Hiragi-chan?” (Shuten) (それはどうなのさヒイラギちゃん) “Even demons want to take a day off.” (Hiragi)

“You have become quite casual all of a sudden.” (Shuten) While exchanging words with each other, we arrived at the resting place.

Since there were no people at the tables, I peeked in where I saw an older lady making something by herself.

“Hello. Two demons here.” (Shuten)

“Hey now...it’s rare to see demons in the Empire.” (Cook) “Ah well, you know. What do you have? Cookies?” (Shuten) “Well aren’t you sweet? Wait a moment. I will bake something appropriate.” (Cook)

It seems that there is no mistake that this is a pastry bakery.

I sit on the bench and look up at the sky. Blue. Some of it is white. In that way it is the same as Earth. I feel refreshed.

“...Hey Shuten.” (Hiragi)

“Yeah?” (Shuten)

“Do you think vengeance is stupid after all?” (Hiragi)

“So you want to talk about it after all? It’s not something clearly white or black.” (Shuten)

“Just chat with me.” (Hiragi)

“Hm~...it depends on certain things. It can’t be unjustified resentment...I wonder...if I were you would I kill my opponent? If it was due to a flaw, perhaps I would cast it aside.” (Shuten) “How vague.” (Hiragi)

“It’s a vague issue you’ve given me.” (Shuten)

“That’s true.” (Hiragi)

Looking over with a glance, Hiragi next to me did not have a particularly

serious expression. It seems it really was just a chat...what a heavy chatting topic.

I already miss the Mad Wizard Gaius, but he's broken so it's too late.

"The sky is so blue." (Hiragi)

"I cannot grasp what kind of tension is in today's Hiragi." (Shuten)

"Speaking strongly, I do not want to think much about tension." (Hiragi)

"So then, count the number of clouds." (Shuten)

"Haha, don't you know Shuten? Since clouds are just a collection of moisture you can't count them." (Hiragi)

"Be quiet you." (Shuten)

"—What did you say?" (Hiragi)

"The fact that I was just able to experience the frustration from the perspective of the marginalized just now is a harvest." (Shuten) (マジレスされる側の苛立ちを経験できたことだけが今の収穫だわ)

"Huh?" (Hiragi)

...Well. Anyway.

Even with this kind of silly conversation, there are pieces of the conversation that are more fun than usual. Traveling alone was not bad, but it is a different kind of enjoyment that comes from traveling with a second person.

While waiting a while for the baked goods, it was a peaceful calm between us two.

"Oh, how unusual. Are you demons guests?" (Girl)

"What?" (Shuten)

I raised my face.

There was a little girl holding an umbrella. With a wide smile, she would not even be as tall as my chest if I were standing.

With flowers and bell ornaments in her short blonde hair she stood under the big blue sky, wearing a kimono dyed indigo from the top. This kind of contrast

between Japanese and Western style is the best. But, there is something unusual with her; it's not like there is anything wrong with her, perhaps the reason I'm sensing this kind of thing is because she is a blonde-haired girl wearing a kimono. It is hard to put it into words, but this legitimate loli feels like she is distorted in some way, as if I'm standing in front of someone hiding a tremendous power.

"...Well?" (Girl)

"Oh, sorry. I am—" (Shuten)

"Yatano-chan! You came!?" (Cook)

"Matilda, since I'm older, 'chan' is a little..." (Yatano) The girl who did not look to be an older age had a troubled smile.

The woman called Matilda was the older woman who made the pastries. She came out of the shop with a tray that smelled delicious.

"Yes, here are your pastries I made for you. From this direction it is Hikamo grass flavor (ヒカモ草味), sakura (cherry blossom) flavor, and plain, in that order. It is also fine to eat them later." (Matilda)

"Thank you." (Shuten)

The woman retreated, saying that she will make something for Yatano-chan too.

...okay. Putting that aside, Yatano. Yatano. I feel like I've heard that name somewhere.

"May I sit next to you?" (Yatano)

"Oh, go ahead." (Shuten)

Closing her umbrella she sat next to me with the posture of a proper lady.

I am happy to be caught between two pretty ladies...but I missed the words of Hiragi from a moment ago. When I glanced next to me, I saw Hiragi staring at Yatano with slightly surprised eyes. When I noticed, Yatano was also gazing over here with her round eyes in a subtle look, her hand hiding her mouth.

"It's been a long time. Has the seal truly been broken?" (Yatano)

Wait. This girl. What is she saying at such a time.

“...why, you...!” (Hiragi)

Hey, are you acquainted with Hiragi? But you are a little girl.

Yatano dropped her gaze to her feet and then laughed mischievously.

“Oh...this is, it seems it cannot be helped. Sorry.” (Yatano) “No, uh...eeh...?” (Hiragi)

I do not understand the situation, or the aura around Hiragi. Wait, what reason would make me unable to understand the situation?

“Eh, what? Yatano, and Hiragi who was sealed for 100 years? Are you two acquainted?” (Shuten)

“That’s right.” (Yatano)

“O, oh...I see.” (Shuten)

How shocking. On both sides of me are people who are far older.

Just how old are you?

I guess Yatano-chan is a freak of the Far East, as she is wearing a kimono and hair ornaments with an umbrella after all? Though it may be harsh, I cannot think of this blonde, blue-eyed person as a little girl...oh, she reminds me of a grandma. (金髪碧眼の少女とは思えない渋さ.....ああ、お婆ちゃんだったなそういや)

...Really though, I’m certain I’ve heard something to do with Yatano before. I feel like she absolutely came from Grimoire Lancer, but why can I not remember?

“Even so, you are?” (Yatano)

“Oh sorry, I’m Shuten.” (Shuten)

“Shuten, you are very fashionable.” (Yatano)

“Ah! I guess you could say that! I also think Yatano wearing the kimono and hairstyle with an umbrella is nice!” (Shuten) “Hehehe, it is my favorite.” (Yatano)

Even though she looks to be around 8 years old, what is with this bewitching

smile and laughter? The nape visible behind her head was excellent. I kind of wanted to brush her hair back.

“...hey, hey now. Don’t get too excited. Yatano, what are you trying to do...?”
(Matilda)

“That’s a great question.” (Shuten)

“Be silent Shuten. The old lady Matilda from a while ago was a human being, but you do not even have the ability to endure this...even you will be afraid in front of such a monster...” (Hiragi)

“Huh, I seem to be dripping sweat?” (Shuten)

“You didn’t even realize!?” (Hiragi)

“Oh. I’m not going to harm you guys.” (Yatano)

Well anyway, what is it about that unfamiliar atmosphere of Yatano? Instinctually, I think I could not win if I were to get into a battle with her. Well now. I don’t quite understand, but this little Yatano has a tremendous aura... hm? Was this the strange feeling I was wondering about a little while ago? I guess Yatano cleverly hides it otherwise my instinct to run away would take over. Somehow, it’s unnatural.

“Who is Miss Matilda?” (Shuten)

“So Matilda is a Miss and I am a -chan...?” (Yatano)

“As usual you are a man who goofs around...” (Hiragi)

Why do I have to be looked at with such harsh eyes from Hiragi?

Anyway.

“Uh, hey, are you hiding something?” (Shuten)

“Oh you noticed? This grandmother is a little surprised.” (Yatano)

“Stop calling yourself a grandmother. You are a little girl no matter how you look at it.” (Hiragi)

“Ufufu, there’s no way I’ll promise not to say such a thing.” (Yatano)

Like the gesture of keeping a secret, she held her finger to her lips while

winking. It's cute enough, but what is she talking about? I mean it's cute but not attractive. Really these older people, this feeling of being treated like a child is ridiculous.

“Hiding...?”

“Yatano-chan is hiding her power well, so I am wondering how I would also control the output of my power.” (Shuten) “Oh, that...can you stop putting – chan on my name? It's rather offensive, or something...” (Yatano)

“Nah. Somehow, for the moment, only an opponent of Yatano-chan's level could find such a way of expressing the elements.” (Shuten) (やだ。なんか、今のところヤタノちゃん相手にそういう素の表情させられる手段がこれしか見つからん)



Where are the dangos? No, these are also wonderful.

“Do not underestimate the soul of a businesswoman, oh dango!! Seriously!? This shop has dangos too!?” (Shuten)

“Ho!? Even though you are a demon...you also know the taste of dango!?” (Matilda)

“I’m innocent!? Innocent!?” (Shuten) (くれんの！？ くれんの！？)

“Wait a moment! I’ll make some of those delicious confections!” (Matilda)

“Yay” (Shuten)

“Somehow...it looks like you’re having fun Shuten.” (Hiragi) “Have you eaten them, Hiragi? Are these dangos any good~?” (Yatano)

“Sorry, something like this is annoying.” (Hiragi) (ごめん、なんかすごいむかつく)

“But why!?” (Shuten)

Haa, with a sigh I snatched up one of the baked pastries. I don’t know why I am shocked, but I feel like I am slowly becoming numb.

“Umm, let’s wait for Matilda...Haa, I guess it’s okay to eat another...” (Hiragi)

Even so, Miss Matilda. No, even if I am stubbornly not running away despite the tremendous feeling, it seems it is surpassed by her business soul. I thought back on my previous life, and it seems people who can sell things to customers are impressive. How can anyone at a convenience store can do it, but I cannot do it? If even a clerk at a convenience store can deal with this then I can too.

“*sniff*...You guys tease everyone don’t you?” (Yatano) “...somehow, I’m stuck to this idiot.” (Hiragi)

“Yatano-chan, Yatano, how do you hide that kind of aura?” (Shuten)

“I feel like the personality of Shuten isn’t one to give words of comfort...well, in order to make your aura not look as strong you will need to practice a bit of your control? Try exuding an aura of intimidation, or try to cut the signal so it doesn’t stand out (威嚇の為に気迫を出してみたり、誰にもバレないように気配を絶ってみたり). Practice is important.” (Yatano)

“Ho ho. Is it a kind of sensing thing?” (Shuten)

Hmm! It is!

“...Did it disappear?” (Shuten)

“Not at all.” (Yatano)

“Don’t say such an annoying thing with a full smile.” (Shuten)

I tried to put out my aura, but to my disappointment it was useless. The smile of Yatano-chan who seems to be enjoying herself is annoying.

“Oh, Miss Matilda is also here!”

“Ah, that’s why I’m –chan.” (Yatano) (あ、あのだから何でわたしはちゃん付けで)
While shaking my head from the psychological damage, I licked my lips as I eyed the delicious skewered dango she brought.

“If you think that it will revive, that is okay.” (Yatano “Oh, kay...” (Shuten)

“That’s not what she meant...I’ve had enough...Oh, Ms Matilda, thank you for the dango...oh it’s delicious.” (Hiragi)

“Ooooooi!! It was supposed to be received by me!! I was supposed to get it!!” (Shuten)

“Ahaha, it is because the nine-tails received it so naturally so I gave it to her. Sorry.” (Matilda)

My Dangooooooooo!!

Why is your chewing and chewing so happy Hiragi!

Even though there were dangos after such a long time...after so long there were sweet dangos...Ah, but you were sealed for a hundred years? Speaking of which, hold on...?

“Is Shuten seriously depressed?” (Hiragi)

“Yes.” (Shuten)

“Oh my.” (Yatano)

Shut up.

The resentment from food is scary. Surely they realize it...Looking over, there was only one skewer of dangos remaining among us. Even though there were

three, two of them had been eaten.

“My bad. I didn’t think you would be so bent out of shape.” (Hiragi)

“I don’t care anymore, no matter what you say.” (Shuten) “Eh, didn’t you say you would give it up!? Here, eat it!” (Hiragi)

“Sincerity is insufficient. Look here and apologize.” (Shuten)

“You are such a pain in the neck!” (Hiragi)

Why have you turned away and covered your red cheeks with your tails?

Geez.

In front of me Hiragi squatted down and began to scribble something while crouching.

“What is it?” (なんだよ)

“Ah?”

“Oh my, you two are on good terms.” (Yatano)

“It’s not good! Where are you looking to think that!?” (Hiragi)

“Being rejected to that point usually hurts, though it will probably not be a romantic relationship anyway.” (Yatano) I stand up in front of them while holding the skewered dango.

It seems that Yatano is strangely infuriating, but maybe not. It’s not like I have even had my first kiss yet.

“By the way, what have the two of you come to the Empire for?” (Yatano)

“Hmm? Oh we are looking for something.” (Shuten)

“Well aren’t you an odd demon, just be careful...and what are you planning to do with Hiragi?” (Yatano)

“I am...I see. It’s fine since I have no malice towards the Empire. Don’t worry.” (Shuten)

“...Alright. Let’s believe it for now.” (Yatano)

“Okay?”

“Yeah, I personally believe it is not because of my own selfishness.” (Yatano)

Yatano-chan smiled widely.

I had completely forgotten, but how did they know each other? That must be the reason why Hiragi concealed that she was about to go to the Empire.

“...Thank you.”

“I will accept it.” (受け取っておきます)

To Hiragi who seems likely to do something terrifying, Yatsano’s smile was undisturbed.

“Ah, then we’ll go after finishing the dangos.” (あ、うまうまだなやっぱ団子は)

“Haha, thank you Oni-oniisan.” (Yatano)

“I want to come back sometime. I will use this road on my return.” (Shuten)

“That is why it is worthwhile to welcome customers warmly!” (Matilda)

Looking at Matilda who laughs happily, I am also enjoying myself. It’s nice to be in a warm shop. I feel almost human. Oddly this is a Japanese-decorated shop. Well, Grimoire Lancer is made by a Japanese game company...was this world made first, or the game?

It is too real and I do not know which one is which.

“Well, shall we go now?”

“There is a town called the village of Rene ahead. You are strong demons, but before anything you should spend a night at the abandoned village of Rene.” (Yatano)

“Thanks a lot Yatano.” (Hiragi)

“Thank you again for your patronage, come again!” (Matilda) The money was obtained while hunting monsters from Habuil tower. It was good as common currency.

“Let’s head out Hiragi.” (Shuten)

“Oh, yes.” (Hiragi)

The goal is to visit Rene’s village...or rather the abandoned village of Rene. We

can continue heading through the Empire again after staying the night.

“See you!” (Shuten)

“Yeah, see you...Next time we meet, can you please abandon using chan as an honorific?” (Yatano)

“Hahahaha” (Shuten)

“Please give me a reply!” (Yatano)

Grr Yatano inflated her cheeks while Ms Matilda standing next to her waved as we walked away. Strangely, Hiragi somehow had a dark expression on her face that left me curious.

Chapter 2: Abandoned Village of Rene I [Child Bearing the World Itself]

Two people pass by. It cannot be said that either of them are ordinary people, as one, for example, has two twisting black horns. Next to him, the other has triangular fox ears as well as a number of soft tails growing out of her.

At that time, the woman standing behind Yatano who was sitting on the bench next to the Silverwhite Highway spoke up.

“Yatano-chan, is this okay?” (Matilda)

“Yes. The heads of the shrine will complain a lot, but I don’t care what they think. I do not plan to scare them.” (Yatano) Crimson fabric held by black bones. Yatano opened her beautifully crafted umbrella and laughed at Matilda. There is no malice in it, only well-intentioned amusement.

“Rene’s abandoned village is certainly the best place to rest overnight. Though, I wonder why only the demons suffer such persecution.” (Matilda)

“It is because there was a large event where demons were involved before there was the Imperial Academy, though I do not know if it is enough of a reason for the current Empire to be disgusted with demons.” (Yatano)

“What do you mean?” (Matilda)

As she stood up onto her sandals gracefully, the small bells decorating her hair rang out a bright tone. Setting the umbrella on her shoulder and straightening the hem of her kimono, she was then ready to leave.

“Humans shun those that are stronger than themselves. The subjects of the Empire...No, the Imperial Academy thought they couldn’t do anything against the demons...So, the fear and persecution against the demons has built up until now. However, with the Empire’s magic of the Imperial Academy as it is, there is no longer any reason to fear the magic of the demons and persecute them. That’s what I think” (Yatano)

With a swishing noise, her short blonde hair was blown about by the comfortable afternoon breeze.

Underneath the distant blue sky, while watching the flow of the clouds, she narrowed her eyes and muttered quietly.

“These flowing clouds that cover the world, will eventually fall to the ground as rain. That which is mighty will not keep its authority forever. Those who remain unaware of this fact and just look down with frightened faces will live forever in the illusion of fear (それに気づかずただ下を向いて怯えている人たちは、きっと永遠に幻影を恐れて生きるのでしょう).” (Yatano)

Who on earth was the one reflected in her mind at that time?

With a sigh weighed down in grief, her thoughts seemed far away.

However, her expression once her gaze turned downwards was somewhat bright.

“But, I feel like some interesting things are going to happen. This wind invited by the Empire is bringing up something like a premonition.” (Yatano)

“Yatano-chan, I haven’t seen that expression on your face for a long time.” (Matilda)

After speaking, Matilda’s mouth began to wrinkle upwards.

“Eh?” (Yatano)

At these unexpected words, she tried to think back on her expression. The face that was shown for only a moment, was one that matched her girlish appearance.

“Excitement, like the feeling of getting a new toy, it is that kind of expression, and one that I haven’t seen for a long time.” (Matilda)

“Huh, is that so?” (Yatano)

“Yeah, that’s right.” (Matilda)

“If that’s the case, then certainly—” (Yatano)

Looking towards the road that leads to Rene’s village, paved with silver tiles, she smiled and took a step.

“—that young demon has given me a wonderful gift.” (Yatano) “Ah!” (Shuten)

“What is it, that you would cry out like a squeezed bird?” (Hiragi)

“Was it such a painful voice?” (Shuten)

This was a bad idea.

As the sun gradually fell and the shadows lengthened, we were still walking along the silver road. The reddish glow of the silver tiles lit by sunset is beautiful.

With the thought that it is fantasy, until a moment ago I had good feeling mixed in with the uplifting experience of beautiful things.

Hiragi standing next to me seemed to be giving me disappointed eyes, but that's fine.

“No, I just thought that I had heard the name of Yatano from somewhere before...but then I remembered.” (Shuten)

“What?...I knew her in the past, but surely that's not it?” (Hiragi)

“But you do not know the Imperial Academy.”

Yes, but...what do mean, that she is an official in the Imperial Academy?”

“As a stakeholder, or something like that?”

Only the name of Yatano appeared in Grimoire Lancer II. However, same as the name “Dai (だいは),” and never appeared in this volume. This was probably the reason why I didn't remember it at the time.

However, circumstances differ in Grimoire Lancer III.

Although there is too much to talk about it here, it's not like she isn't mentioned because she is weak or casts a thin shadow.

It is truly the opposite.

Because she is too strong, she cannot get involved in the story.

There are three major official cheat characters that are often talked about in the Grimoire Lancer series. One of them is Yatano. Yatano Fuso ArcLight.

If she had been such a girl with a different colored atmosphere then I probably would have remembered sooner, as I have played III once. However, I played III quite a while ago and forgot about her because she is a character that only briefly appears. If it were II then I had fun playing it over and over...well.

“What do you mean?” (Hiragi)

“The ranking of magic librarians in the Imperial Academy is from the first to the tenth seat.” (Shuten)

“...That’s right, that guy we fought the day before yesterday was the tenth wasn’t he?” (Hiragi)

“Oh...well...If we have to compare the power of Grendel to the other magic librarians, it will not change the fact that he is the weakest.” (Shuten)

“Hmmm.” (Hiragi)

Oh, she does not seem interested. But though she doesn’t seem to care her ears have moved. Well, there is one of her ears cocked my direction.

“However...Among the magic librarians, only the top 3 are exceptional.” (Shuten)

“One to three?” (Hiragi)

“Ah, the second seat is dead from fighting the Devil King two years ago...but the first and third seats remain.” (Shuten) “...how exceptional are you talking about?” (Hiragi)

“They certainly have more experience than we have now.” (Shuten)

“More experience...?” (Hiragi)

“Sigh (瞬殺). It might be possible to somehow fight someone from the top with the pearl pieces hunted from a monster, but frankly, right now we will be killed.” (Shuten)

It will be the last stop. Game Over~.

I wonder why I talked so extensively about everything out loud.

Holly gradually lifted her face.

“I do not believe it.” (Hiragi)

“Imperial School Magic Librarian Third Seat Yatano Fuso ArcLight. When we face her, we will turn the world itself into enemies.” (Shuten)

“Hha...” (Hiragi)

“Grendel Glyph Scale of the tenth seat was an opponent who looked like he was having fun. It seemed like a joke.” (Shuten) “I did not intend to fight...but getting stronger...that girl...” (Hiragi)

“That girl, hey.” (Shuten)

Although she was a cute thing, I guess looking at an acquaintance from 100 years ago she wasn't that strong? Or was she just a little girl? This seems likely from the words of Hiragi.

But when I remember III, I realize I was having a tea party with a terrible opponent. She was mockingly talking about it. But if I had been caught there, the match would be over. Forgive me.

By the way it is a memory of my previous life, a quotation from the manual of the game.

“Imperial School Magic librarian third seat Yatano Fuso ArcLight. When you oppose her, you will turn the whole world into an enemy.”

...It's her world. (世界っておまえ) I also thought.

Well in actuality, she seldom appears. Well, in that short amount of time she could quietly erase 500,000 Crusaders from the Kingdom. Her Divine Phenomenon Phase skills are also strange.

As it is, Yatano is a terrifying opponent. Although I'm not going to quit calling her -chan.

“...I do not know much, but I am acquainted with her.” (Hiragi)

“There seems to be a lot more to you, so what is your purpose?” (Shuten)

“Huh?” (Hiragi)

“I entered the Imperial territory for a purpose in the Southwest from here. But since it's in a different direction from the capitol, aren't you here for an ancestor?”

(Shuten)

“...Oh, something like that.” (Hiragi)

Hiragi nodded in assent. Her expression contained gloomy things, so I

pretended not to see what was going on.

There is no need to take the trouble to explain it. Once you've watched the story from the other side, you can ride the flow and maybe clearly finish something in the Empire.

“Oh, is that it? The village of Rene.” (Shuten)

“Oh, yeah. It looks like that.” (Hiragi)

She's probably thinking of something else and so is a little absent-minded. (だからちょっと上の空なのもきつとなんか考えてるからだ。)

Well, I'm sure it will be fine to leave it alone until something concerning my life happens.

Meanwhile, we could see something like a small village beyond the route on the Silverwhite Highway we were following. Surrounded with white fences, it was dusk so it looked like there was white smoke coming from the chimneys of the houses.

Somehow, it gives off the air of a 'village' from a game. Are the houses made of brick? It almost looks like a wall made of baked mud because it is so dirty.

There are 12 in all. Even one person is enough to take care of this. (一二がなくて皆殺し。そんな奴はこれで十分だっの)

“So, when Yatano and Matilda were talking about this place earlier, this was a monster infested village.”

“You can kill them all for food.”

“Please stop asking about that or you might be killed by Yatano-chan.” (ヤタノちゃんに殺されかねないからやめてお願い)

This aspect of our relationship is the same since we first met.

I grab Hiragi by the scruff of her neck and pull her along.

“Let's go –” (Shuten)

“Why like some kind of dog or cat!”

“But a fox.” (Shuten)

“A fox!? A fox!? What is this treatment!?” (Hiragi)

“How do we get in Rene’s abandoned village?” (Shuten)

“Right here. There is a road to the right, where we follow the mountain.”
(Hiragi)

“Well then, we will go this way.” (Shuten)

It seems that the people of Rene’s Village will not be returning any time soon. Well, there’s no need to worry about come across people who will hate us. Also, here and there monsters are wandering around.

If you get off the silver road a little before the village of Rene, you can enter the mountain right next to the village. I thought it would be an animal trail, but it seems man-made. There are stones buried everywhere to prevent slipping and mudslides. If so, it seems there is no mistake in the assumption that there is something ahead.

Plants that come up to my knees tickled strangely, and sometimes monsters came out so I would swing the Demon Slayer.

“My tails are getting dirty.” (Hiragi)

“Aren’t you struggling because the path is narrow?” (Shuten) “I am not struggling!?” (Hiragi)

“What’s the problem, nine-tails, just do something with magic.”

“Ugugu...I’m not good at turning into other people...” (Hiragi) “You seem to be having a hard time. Probably because you have been relying on your Charm.”
(Shuten)

“The charm...because the only men have been Shuten and that blonde magic librarian, I had forgotten.” (Hiragi)

“Be clear whether you are bold or delicate.” (Shuten)

“So annoying!?” (Hiragi)

While teasing the young woman, we traveled along the path.

No but, a natural enemy for me is also an excellent companion. Well and, the name of that companion is Hiragi, and is surprisingly nice.

Aside from that.

After walking roughly for awhile. In about 30 minutes of this experience there appeared a cluster of deserted houses.

“So it reveals abandoned houses...but is there a river nearby?” (Shuten)

“No, I am at a loss as to why you would ask.” (Hiragi)

“It seems either your eyes or nose are useless.” (Shuten) “Your treating me like a beast knows no bounds!!” (Hiragi) “So, what exactly do you sense?” (Shuten) (で、実際どうなんよ)

“...Well, there seems to be a murmur of water. But I mean, there was no sign of water in the village in the first place.” (Hiragi)

“Is that so?” (Shuten)

Besides putting Hiragi on the spot on behalf of the beasts, for the time being I sighed while leaning the Demon Slayer against an abandoned shop that was supposed to be treated like the main square.

Looking around, it seems a long time since the village was abandoned. There are places that have become monster nests, houses wrapped in ivy, and in some cases collapsed walls or broken chimneys about to fall to the ground.

“Yeah, it’s a good ruin.” (Shuten)

“What is a good ruin?” (Hiragi)

“I mean to say that it has a nice atmosphere, it is not bad to spend a night in this kind of place.” (Shuten)

Well then...I have worked up quite a sweat today.

“Should we try to take a bath?” (Shuten)

“I will break your horn/I’ll have to pass.” (Hiragi) (角折るわよ TL: *Still unsure on this phrase, but thanks everyone for your input!*)

“Uissu.” (Shuten)

It is useless even if I were to say it’s natural.

I had been watching for the right moment to point out her threadbare

clothing, but I would likely be killed if I said such a thing.

“Let’s hunt some monsters and cook the meat first. Then bathe. After that we can eat.” (Hiragi)

“...Got it.” (Shuten)

Once I nodded at her words, Hiragi turned away. After watching her figure go down the opposite direction I went up and threw the Demon Slayer at the rabbit-like monsters that were nearby.

Kupyi! (くっぴい) (*the sound of the rabbit monsters*) After the monsters cried out I walked over and hung the dinner over the Demon Slayer.

“Oh, I should have started the fire first.” (Shuten)

I plucked branches from dry trees nearby and gathered them for burning.

Well, after I finish bathing and come back the food will be ready.

Chapter 3: Abandoned Village of Rene II [His Past, Her Past]

In front of a warm campfire that flickered and shone red. I stared at the face of Hiragi roasting the monster meat for awhile. Her shiny black eyes, focusing on the meat, and illuminated by the flames were beautiful. But although I found her pretty, I was concerned about her as she had been worrying since we entered the Empire.

“What’s with the staring?” (Hiragi)

“What is it...the same as I expected.” (Shuten)

“Ha?” (Hiragi)

Even though I won’t interrogate her that much, there is the subtle dark expression like this being made. I hesitated because I do not know what she is thinking nor what she is going to do with such a vague expression, but somehow a sigh came out of her, my kindred-chan, who rolled her eyes.

I sat down on one of the stumps from the trees that had been cut down in the surrounding area. By my side the Demon Slayer quietly reflected the orange light.

“Sitting around a campfire like this, I remember our first meeting.” (Shuten)

“It has not even been five days yet.” (Hiragi)

“I think that I have been able to open up, but what about you?” (Shuten)

“...Wh-what do you mean? Why would you think that?” (Hiragi)

“You are not being honest.” (Shuten)

“Shut up.” (Hiragi)

Huh, she sniffed and turned away.

At first it seemed completely aimed backward, but apparently this deflection of her gaze when things don’t work out her way is just a habit. This girl.

“Can’t you turn into a fox?”

“Always so abrupt...There is no reason to do it, so I won’t.” (Hiragi)

“Although you can transform between a fox and a humanoid, you cannot erase your nine tails, doesn’t that make you a defective item?” (Shuten)

“Didn’t your teasing become harsh after becoming Kin!? Hey isn’t this too strong of a blow after becoming kindred!?” (Hiragi)

I close my eyes as Hiragi protested.

Yeah, from here I shouldn’t go any further. I, Shuten, remembered.

I grabbed a stick of the skewered meat. I want salt. I wonder if I could barter and then buy it from Miss Matilda.

“That reminds me, I do not understand the benefits of Kin.” (Shuten)

“Benefit...? Doing this will allow you to know of the survival of your partner and be able to supply magical power afterwards, I mean, that’s it for now.” (Hiragi)

“Is that how it is?” (Shuten)

“Since I am considerably weakened now...I think if I regain my strength with magical powers once again then we would be able to converse through our thoughts though.” (Hiragi)

“Oh, you seem comfortable. So from now on it shouldn’t be any trouble to bathe in the same water.” (Shuten)

“Why are you declaring that you want to see me!? I thought you were stupid before, but in the end you are even more idiotic!” (Hiragi)

“I have to declare it? (申告しなきゃいいのか) It seems I’ve heard something good.” (Shuten)

“What’s good you idiot?” (Hiragi) (いいわけあるかアホ)

“Is something wrong messy tail?” (Shuten)

“Why the messy nickname!?” (Hiragi)

Wuah! Hiragi bared her teeth in anger. She is too easy for me to tease.

Moving on, it seems like Hiragi's clothes changed since I came back from bathing.

"Hiragi, Hiragi, what brand of clothes are those?" (Shuten)

"Brand...? Thinking about it, it was an Imperial military uniform and was a bit dirty, so I washed and altered it a bit. Wouldn't it be easy to turn the Kinagaishi into a Yukata? Would you like me to change it?" (Hiragi)

"Stop it~!" (Shuten)

What a terrible thing! It is nice to wear a Kinagaishi as a Kinagaishi!

...since she is not an actual Imperial soldier, is it alright like this?

The clothes that Hiragi were wearing were the basic black uniform of the Imperial Academy members, but after her smart remodeling it had somehow become a cute and cool military dress outfit.

The place where her tails come out had also been wonderfully adjusted.

"It looks good on you, maybe you could try adding a beret or something."
(Shuten)

"...Oh, maybe a white beret would also work." (Hiragi)

I said my thoughts aloud, and they were unexpectedly accepted. Perhaps she really likes clothes and that sort of thing.

...Yeah, I feel like I got a tiny peek into her head.

"The military boots might suit you." (Shuten)

"Why are you so familiar with girl's clothing?" (Hiragi)

"...Well, there was a time long ago that I thought I would like to try something like that out." (Shuten) (TL: *haha, was our Shuten thinking he wanted to be some kind of fashionista? xD*)

"...really." (Hiragi)

Ku.

I wonder why I am suddenly thinking of the past. It is like a relapse of darkness.

I do not want to talk much about my past life. I cannot deny that I was slightly naïve. Look, I died from a train accident, and I can only think of my regret. There was something I wanted to do with my future.

No, doesn't this former student have a great life now, you ask?

Hey, if you actually look, you can easily see that my previous life was a sky full of stars. (ほら、見上げれば前世ではそう簡単には見られなかった、満天の星々) I am thankful the memory of my previous life has returned. I mean, I have even been able to see the beauty of the Silverwhite Highway, which isn't a bad thing.

"...Shuten?" (Hiragi)

"Huh?" (Shuten)

"Did something break you from your past?" (Hiragi)

"Even if I had such a heavy past that it would break me I do not have to share it...Oh, no wait." (Shuten)

After a moment passed I made up my mind to say so. I decided to say it after all, even though I hesitated a moment. I looked closely at Hiragi who had stopped moving and was looking at me.

"...Only one part, I don't mind." (Shuten)

"Eh?" (Hiragi)

Come to think of it, there was something. One thing from life that I hated.

This was before the memories of my previous life returned. As the leader of demons who is not a college student, I got this memory as a demon and I want to forget it, but it is a bad past I cannot forget.

"Well, are you sure? Wait a moment..." (Hiragi)

A handmade wooden cup made by hollowing a tree branch. Staring at the surface of the water, Hiragi slightly lowered her head. Her hands held the cup out weakly, and it can be seen that she is obviously worried.

"...On a mountain where I used to live a long time ago, not to boast but I was the strongest demon. Well, I was called by 'Captain, Captain' but thinking about it now on a side note I feel bad about that." (Shuten)

“...alright.” (Hiragi)

___Captain, I feel like it was that kind of generic nickname...I am unhappy, remembering that name.

“But even though I was big, as an Oni I am weak to magic...so when I was suddenly attacked by a guy claiming to be a subordinate of the Demon King, I was caught by the magic of that creep, Gaius, and sadly my consciousness was blown away...The voices of those kids screaming ‘Captain! Captain!’ are still burning in my ears. At that time I could not do anything.” (Shuten)

I found myself getting angry when I remember it. It might have been good to make Gaius suffer a little more.

“I’m sorry...I did not intend to pry into the details.”

“Well it’s fine...For this reason, I do not mean to drag it out but, even now I can’t quite decide if I will go to that demon village. And so, it’s impossible to say if I was broken by my past, but someday I am going to return to that mountain to see.” (Shuten)

“...I see.”

Uh, it ended up becoming a dark story unintentionally.

Hm, Hiragi seemed to have received it strangely as her face has slightly darkened.

...that’s why I didn’t really want to talk about it.

“So then, even considering various things, I think you really don’t need to worry about it. Though would that make us friends?” (Shuten)

“It’s an obligation of Kin.” (Hiragi)

“What, you can ride there?” (なんだよ、そこは乗れよ)

Whew.

I stood up from the edge of the stump. Carrying the Demon Slayer on my shoulder, I had a thought and turned towards Hiragi.

“Will you go to the capitol or come southwest with me? Think about it carefully. Either way you can stay here awhile...I’m going to sleep.” (Shuten)

“Yeah...um” (Hiragi)

“What is it?” (Shuten)

“Sorry.” (Hiragi)

“I don’t mind. Don’t worry about it.” (Shuten)

...I’m going to bed. I really don’t remember much. My mind is not that sharp. I will head out again tomorrow, though I wonder if I can fall asleep after bathing in cold water. Two days, Empire. Cold...water.

The light from the sparking campfire had disappeared for a long time. There were several monster bones among the black charred firewood. Occasionally the exhausted firewood snapped and collapsed, the empty sound echoing through the midnight silence of the abandoned village of Rene.

It is the time when monsters become active.

Yet nothing happens around that shadow, and now monster attacks...It is inevitable, considering that there is no circumstance where they could approach that person who sits quietly. It was the figure of a man sleeping with his back to the chimney, a big axe lying next to him.

After all, it is said that bestial monsters perceive strength and will give the shadow of such creatures a wide berth.

This abandoned village in the middle of the mountain combines the beautiful feeling of being in the woods and being near the sky at a reasonable altitude. Thanks to the heavenly starry sky, no matter how far the evening sun falls it will never be true darkness.

Large lights and small lights. Whether there was difference in brightness, the scattered stars were increasingly beautiful.

“...Shuten is probably asleep.” (Hiragi)

Beyond his shadow was a large silhouette. Illuminated by starlight, her many tails were revealed. Behind her gaze is the one abandoned shop. In other words, the shadow of that man on the roof.

What is this?

“.....a branching point?” (Hiragi)

She thought she wanted to quickly head to the Imperial capitol.

Even so, she thought that she didn't want to leave him.

He said he was heading southwest. She was also going southwest. However, if she accepted this reasoning, it seemed like there was no reason to go to the capitol, was the feeling she got. (だがもしそれを受け入れてしまえば、帝都に赴く理由は無くなってしまうような、そんな気もしていた)

“...Today, it was...fun...” (Hiragi)

She was surprised herself at the words that came from her mouth.

To even be able to afford the feeling of “fun,” and also to accept that emotion obediently. It was a memorable and nostalgic feeling.

Sealed a hundred years ago, to then just wake up and live life just as usual. Although the question had been raised if she held a grudge, was he really going to give up on asking that after that? Ah, surely she would have died like that. She wondered if she would have run out of magical energy and died if the seal hadn't been undone.

In fact, she was considerably weakened.

That was something she had realized immediately after the stone was broken. If she had been trapped for ten more years, then her power would have dropped to a dangerous place where even the monsters of the Wendell plateau would become enemies.

So when she escaped, her feelings were complicated.

To be able to move freely was a pleasant thing, and those things she had planned to do once free could now be put into action.

But suddenly being seen naked by the teasing man who she had randomly come across, then defeated by a strange organization previously unknown, furthermore, in an attempt to help the guy who repelled the organization's agent she had made him kindred.

“...in retrospect, this all rather sudden.” (Hiragi)

She sighed.

She shouldn't be so merciful (情けないったらありゃしない). Is this appearance of the Nine-tail's presence so thin? Originally, she should be a creature more feared and not be to be made fun of like that, compelled to apologize, much less awkwardly trying to bathe together.

"But why, why..." (Hiragi)

Although in her circumstances the appropriate response would be anger, hatred, and resentment, the emotion that dominated her mind is "fun." Embarrassment, foolishness, frustration, laughter, annoyance. How often had she ever felt these pure emotions before being sealed in the stone for a hundred years?

"...it was only once, wasn't it?" (Hiragi)

She was reminded of the year before she was sealed. Just that memory cannot be forgotten. Even as a demon, with a body cursed by an enchantment, for one year she had fallen in love with someone.

And so, because of that, it was said the Empire was manipulated...there is the thought that it was all her fault.

Shuten had said he had been thinking about revenge. But he cannot help but wonder if it is his own fault. He surely said as much. If something is your own fault, you cannot say blame anyone other than yourself.

"Shuten...?"

If she thinks about it, he resembles someone.

"That person I liked a long time ago...was such a foolish man." (Hiragi)

To think that the man resembling her fancy would harass her, but it was somewhat refreshing even though she was helpless.

"Leaving me to decide where to go...Somehow, he's cunning." (Hiragi)

Moreover.

"...I faced a terrible foe last battle. Though I do not know if I could even run away from such a cheat." (Hiragi)

She realized she was not the only one with a tragic past.

She also knew not to take the words of a stranger at face value, and still thought she was the most unfortunate. But Shuten had left cuts in her heart.

It is still scary to abandon the past.

He certainly said that too. But that part of him always facing forward was very dazzling.

“...Yeah, I’ve decided.” (Hiragi)

She nodded.

It is because he was there that she can be her present self. Then, those things broken from the past might also be repaired. At this time, she chose one of options before her.

“Let’s follow Shuten... southwest. It is not breaking from my past...however, it is likely that I will be able to think positively.” (Hiragi)

The capitol is the path of revenge. The southwest is the path of settling her past.

“Clearing up my past alongside this guy, I will let him know that I am his older sister.”

However, if she thought of Shuten, she felt like it will be a little easier. She knew she would be fine with this self.

She was able to smile due to the influence of a single person.

“Yeah...I’ve decided...I will tell him tomorrow...I will say to him...I will say it cannot be helped...I will follow you...okay, I do not want you to misunderstand...it’s not that I want to go with you, got it?” (Hiragi) (TL: *Awh, what a cute tsundere xD*)

Hiragi slowly returned to the nearby abandoned building where he had made his bed. She glanced at the man who had been breathing deeply asleep for awhile, and smiled.

Chapter 4: City of Water Mermila I [The Fifth Seat Honorary Director]

Leading down 10 miles southwest from the abandoned village of Rene there is a small town called Mermila, a city of water. Because it is near the southwest border, there is a department of the Imperial Academy for defense, and as the 113th branch is was also known as a scholarly institute where magical researchers worked.

It was also the place that had caused the silver saturation phenomenon several decades ago that turned the stone highway silverwhite across the plains.

As an Imperial institute, it mainly works to measure the unknown. Since it would trouble the Empire if an emergency happened in the capitol city, like when the road was turned white, that was why such an institute that worked with dangerous goods was out here in the country.

And currently, the research institute was working with one of these dangerous goods, an unknown energy body.

On the second basement floor of the research institute.

Surrounded by white tiles on every side, this laboratory was a tightly sealed room with a magic circle drawn on the floor. At this particular laboratory, research on a high purity energy crystal that had been found two weeks ago was under way.

Six people, five male and one female, dressed in magician robes surrounded the center of the magic circle where the crystal had been placed.

However, in the end, it was impossible to drain the high-purity mana as magical energy or as a power source for a magical device. To put it simply, even extracting a reaction from this high purity mana crystal and ethereal object has not been done yet.

What on earth was it exactly?

Even if they were to compare it with the data from the place it was found, or with the data from the weather observed during the time of the discovery, there are no hints lying around.

This plagued the researchers, that there is no response at all and even the mana of this high purity crystal was a secret.

Then from the right of one of the corners of this white tiled room, a door indistinguishable from the wall slid open slowly and a person appeared.

Immediately the researchers stopped working and lower their heads to the man who entered the room through the only doorway.

“Ah, that’s good. How are things going with the crystal?” (Fifth Seat)

“That is...no matter what we do there is no response...” (researcher)

“Hmmm. Show me.” (Fifth Seat)

He slicked back his blue hair.

A monocle hung over one of his sharp eyes that seemed to exude intelligence. Unlike that of the researchers, his uniform was the same long black coat Grendel Glyph-Scale wore.

“...I see, it certainly seems like a mysterious crystal that does not receive any interference.” (Fifth Seat)

Skimming through the informative papers handed to him by one of the researchers, he quickly read through the written words. Once he finished looking through about ten sheets he returned it to a nearby researcher and then turned away to think, his hand on his chin.

“Isn’t there another crystal body in the storage room?” (Fifth Seat)

“It was exactly the same, and the output number was also 0, 0, 0” (researcher)

“Then why don’t you see if the two interfere with each other?” (Fifth Seat)

“...Are you sure? If something happens to that crystal-” (researcher)

“I will take responsibility, for now, I hope that you will be encourage to research without failing to achieve results.” (Fifth Seat)

“Oh, thank you Fifth Seat!” (researcher)

Following the first researcher who lowered his head, everyone else in the room lowered their heads as well.

Surprised at suddenly being called Fifth Seat while trying to leave the laboratory — he immediately stopped in front of the door and said, “It’s fine.”

After coming to this place, he is one of the top members of the research institute. However, he grasped the presence of someone else nearby. If it was an outsider, then has this become something urgent? However, there are not many people who are outsiders who could enter such a place. One of two. What came in was the former (しかして入ってきたのは、前者であった).

“It’s urgent fifth seat!” (messenger)

“...You are supposed to be guarding the area near the village of Rene right now.” (Fifth Seat)

“Well, Yes! But...!” (messenger)

“Calm down for now. If you don’t catch your breath you won’t be able to give a decent report.” (Fifth Seat)

“U-Understood...!” (messenger)

Even though he had a slender and tall body, if he held his hand in front of the subordinate’s face it will be more than enough to stop him in his tracks. In order to not rush and to not be impatient, the messenger took a deep breath before addressing the Fifth Seat again.

“As soon as the Third Seat stopped me by the village of Rene, it was up to me to give you her message!” (messenger)

“Tch...Yatano Fuso ArcLight...did you do something?” (Fifth Seat)

“Well, that is...!” (messenger)

For a moment the messenger hesitated to speak. It is not so difficult to understand why. It was simply because the message left by Yatano was equal to a landmine before the man in front of his eyes.

“Well? Spit it out!” (Fifth Seat)

Hearing the name of Yatano ruined his mood halfway through.

Despite having the appearance of an aloof scholar, he did not forget the feelings of his subordinates, and was a popular young man with a good reputation and was a character with a strong sense of justice. However, for only a single “thing” he was famous for showing violent disgust towards.

The twin eyes of jade drilled into the messenger.

With the sharp gaze on him, the man reported, “According to the third seat, the demonic ‘Power’ that caused the tenth seat to flee is invading this town—”

“Huh!?” (messenger)

Before he could finish, there was the sound of something hitting the floor.

“What...do you mean...? A Power...? Just what were you and that old hag doing...!?!” (Fifth Seat)

“I just said that I left because I was looking for you to report, Eek!?” (messenger)

“Stop playing around you f*\$^%** woman...!!” (Fifth Seat) There is only one opponent in the Empire who he would bad mouth at this time. Even among the similarity of being magic librarians, each individual’s differences in thinking create a difference in the way each moves. From there, it can be said that the compatibility between the fifth and third seat is not particularly good.

“Don’t burden the soil of this empire with something like a demon...this f*\$^%** dumb woman...” (Fifth Seat)

At this enormous change in character the surrounding researchers dropped their jaws, though the voltage of the Fifth Seat continued to rise.

From his grimoire he grasped the handle of his naginata (TL: *a spear/halberd-like weapon, which seems to be summonable as there is no mention of it before now*) and struck it against the stone tile. With the veins visible on the skin of his clenched fist, the Fifth Seat looked up at the ceiling. (自らの魔導書である大薙刀の石突を地面に叩きつけたまま、その柄を血管が浮くほど握りしめて、第五席は天井を仰いだ) “Okay okay, I have understood. The answer is simple. Is that demon coming over here?” (Fifth Seat)

“Y-Yes!” (messenger)

“I will beat it to death.” (Fifth Seat)

Then with a short swing of the Naginata in the tight room, he quickly went past the messenger up the stairs that led to the ground floor. After regaining their composure from being startled, each of the researchers left the room.

One of the last researchers to leave, the man who had just been having the conversation with the fifth seat before he left, scrolled through the written information from the sheets in his hands and murmured quietly.

“Um...talking about overcoming this project...” (researcher) There was no one who answered his words.

“Hyacinths.” (Shuten)

“Su...Su...Sniper” (Hiragi)

“Rubies” (Shuten)

“Su...Su...Sundae!” (Hiragi)

“Da? Really?” (Shuten)

“Da.” (Hiragi)

“Damascus” (Shuten)

“Su...!? Spin Move!” (Hiragi)

“Various~” (Shuten)

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!” (Hiragi) (TL: *So I did my best translating this into English, but it's a Japanese word game called shiritori that they are playing here. Basically each player takes turns, using the last sound of the previous word to start another word. I believe not too many Japanese words start with 'su' so Shuten is basically keeping her in a difficult loop to drive her crazy – successfully*)

Well, that's Shuten. Driving Hiragi crazy who is next to him.

Although not as nice as yesterday since there are a lot of clouds, today the bright sunshine is comfortable. This morning, as soon as I woke up and gave a good morning greeting Hiragi said, “I will follow you, it cannot be helped!” and then because of my untimely suggestion to wash each others' hair for a

morning bath I was suddenly enveloped in fox-fire.

Well, moving on, along the way there was some free time so I said that we should play shiritori. But Hiragi is weak.

“Why is only ‘su’ being used!? Harassment!?” (Hiragi)

“That’s how you play, isn’t it?” (Shuten)

“Arghhhhh” (Hiragi) *(sfx for when someone doesn’t know what to say after losing an argument)*

“Someone stop this horrific reinterpretation of femininity.” (Shuten)

“H-How rude!?” (Hiragi)

Hmm, it seems her response is the same as usual. And like this the relationship with her kin Shuten remains normal. (そんなこんなでシュテン眷属は平常運転)

After leaving the village of Rene, we headed down a southwest path. The southern part of the Empire is a road well-traveled in Grimoire Lancer II. I know about it, but not exactly where to go.

After going down a little mountain road, there should be the city of water of Mermila. There is the branch of the Imperial Academy, where the hero party meets Grendel for the first time. At that time not only will they become companions but a losing event in the form of a battle is waiting for them, as the main characters such as Haruna the “Priest of the Principality” are trespassers just as we are now, and well, it will be quite the battle.

“There is quite a long ways to go, what do you want to do?” (Hiragi)

Well in any case, I’m overjoyed...it is bad to go into the city without being able to hide.” (Shuten)

“...So, you don’t want to enter the town until night?” (Hiragi)

“Well that’s fine. Let’s properly take a break before continuing.” (Shuten)

“That’s good...because I like traveling.” (Hiragi)

Hiragi shrugged as if she is amazed. I did not expect that I would enjoy traveling with such a useless tails like you either...although I do want bury my

face in those fluffy tails, but I don't think she would let me touch them. I guess I did something wrong. Bedwetting? (おねしょ?)

No, if that were the case then her disposition would be heavier.

"...Hey Shuten." (Hiragi)

"Hmm?" (Shuten)

With such a feeling as if counting my own sins, I heard a small voice from my side. As usual I never see this guy. Looking forward while walking, she spoke as if casting her words to the wind. While the fluffy nine tails rustled against each other.

"Thank you for yesterday." (Hiragi)

...Ah.

No, I guess it was good to forget about the thing from yesterday.

"Well that is, it seemed like he was gaining some dangerous momentum, and I wanted to avoid it becoming too serious." (Shuten)

"I know that, and I do not want to be touched. I just wanted to say a little bit of thanks. And since I am not a little girl, accept it obediently!" (Hiragi)

"O, Oh...?" (Shuten)

Pon suddenly my heart beat against my chest.

I stopped on my own. What was that? Was that because of Hiragi? Actually it's not like she is that different of a person.

It seems to have stopped as soon as I noticed it.

When I shook my head slightly and then glanced over, I saw her watching me.

"What are you doing?" (Hiragi)

"Well said, useless tail. For a second I thought this little girl~ had the atmosphere of an adult, but it was stu~pid of me to think that way." (Shuten)

"Eh, Liar! Are you ready to respect me properly!? Feel ready to honor this older me!?" (Hiragi)

"How about I pull some hair out of one of those broom-like tails?" (Shuten)

“I will say that you cannot do it!!” (Hiragi)

Uwaa~! And Hiragi is angry like normal.

Even if it was just in my head she seemed like an adult for a moment.

Speaking of which, unlike yesterday this person seems almost refreshed.

...Were her worries blown away?

Between those people who have a purpose and those who don't, it feels like they might be moving forward...?

“...why are you staring at me?” (Hiragi)

“I guess it was just my imagination. It's just Hiragi.” (Shuten)

“You really are a strange guy!?” (Hiragi)

I'm gonna go ahead! I began to stride a few steps ahead of Hiragi.

Though thinking about it a bit, I also feel like it is not a bad thing but rather wonderful. As we spoke frequently as traveling companions, in the last two days the character of Hiragi has brightened considerably. As for who has caused that, was it because of me and Yatano?...well it's not a bad thing.

“By the way, would you like to play Shiritori?” (Shuten) “I won't do it! You bully!! (Hiragi)

Well, let's move on towards the next pearl piece.

To the city of water Mermila!

Chapter 5: City of Water Mermila II [Malicious Initial Movement]

Imperial Academy Headquarters.

About ninety years ago, the Imperial Academy was born during the reign of Talos II. The location of the place could be said to be at the heart of Empire as was a logical placement. Behind the palace where the emperor reigned was the Imperial Academy, set up as if to protect it, though as the oldest building it was originally the museum of the emperor that led to the throne.

An organization to protect the Imperial Capitol against demons, by studying them and creating what was now known as the Empire's own magic system, the "Imperial Academy" was born. In that past era of the Empire when the tide of anti-demon feelings were strong, its impact was enormous.

And, now.

With the existence of the Book Agency (TL: *this refers to the "soldiers" or rather general members of the Academy, whom we have met before – like the magic librarians' subordinates*) and the power of the magic librarians, the Imperial Academy was indispensable to the Empire.

The one who reigned at the apex of was a person known as "Marshall" who rarely made an appearance. There were only a handful of people who had seen this figure, including the first and third seats of the magic librarians.

As the leader of the Imperial Academy Book Agency of Magic Librarians, he is the one person capable of going against the magic librarians, or to put it another way, the magic librarians are a unit under the direct command of the "Marshall."

Well, today in the Imperial Academy "between the Guran" (紅蓮の間) there was the shadow of a young man.

While in the Guran, the Marshall can "Govern" using a special magic. However, it is a room used only to hear the voice of the Marshall.

A tall young man brushed his long blonde hair and bundled it over his

shoulder. He wore a black coat engraved with X on the back and both hands are bound in bandages.

A circular carpet embroidered with red and gold. Immediately after he kneeled in the middle, the interior of the room was dyed in darkness.

[Grendel. The story that you allowed a demon into the Empire...is it true?]

“Yes...I apologize.” (Grendel)

It was the voice of a crazy old man. The sound echoed with an intimidating deep bass around the surroundings, though Grendel just closed his eyes in response.

He understood the best that it was his loss. He understood. The pain echoing through his fists is not the same sensation of pain his body felt. Anger at his Divine Phenomenon phase skill being broken, indignation, and regret burned in his body.

[She did it...]

Suddenly the voice of the Marshal changed. For Grendel who was prepared for heavy rebuke and punishment, this was surprising. Instinctually he raised his eyebrows, but this did not seem to be particularly noticed.

[Is it true that the one who escaped you was a Nine-tails?]

“Yes...It was certainly seriously wounded. However, we must still be vigilant —” (Grendel)

[Hehehe! It seems like that spell of stone was solved?!...But it was too late... Hiragi...] “What...?” (Grendel)

It was too late? Hiragi?

Grendel who did not understand, raised his face. This movement was perceived by Marshall, who responded to the question with harshness.

[It is not your concern. By the way, was the nine-tails any match for you?]

“Eeh...The nine-tails was not any issue. But the problem is—” (Grendel)

[I see, I see. Good, I will forgive this time’s blunder. But...I will give you the following duties]

“Y-Yes...!” (Grendel)

There was something he wanted to say, but it was an atmosphere where he could not speak. He swallowed his words and again lowered his head.

[Bring the Nine-tails here alive. Allow the eighth seat to accompany you.]

“Capture...alive? What is the meaning behind this?” (Grendel)

[Haven’t I already said this has nothing to do with you?]

“B-But, while the first seat is absent...bringing demons into the Imperial Academy-” (Grendel)

It was an unreasonable order.

The sanctuary of the Imperial Academy is not so much on top of the Empire as it is on top of the Imperial House.

In this country that holding to an exclusion of demons, and it became known that the Marshal and captured and brought a live demon inside of the Imperial House, things would become difficult.

There was another reason why Grendel was reluctant.

It was because of the existence of the first seat whose words and influence were stronger in certain places than the Marshall. Now that he is out of the country, if the Marshall acted irresponsibly it would agitate the first.

Especially since the feud between the Marshall and the First Seat was getting more feverish.

He did not want to add fuel to the fire.

[It’s fine. That nine-tails was around when this place still belonged to the Emperor.]

“...However, now that a total of five seats are outside of the country, if something dangerous happens the first seat will be—” (Grendel)

[What are you saying about the first seat!!]

“... I said that he will be officious.” (Grendel) (TL: *Officious is to be intrusive or assertive of authority in an annoyingly domineering way, especially with regard to petty or trivial matters.*)

[I'm glad you understand]

Huh, it sounded like he snorted.

Grendel kept silent while kneeling.

Though sighing inwardly about being forced to be involved, Grendel never showed it on his face. This was because he believed the fault lied within him. So he had to carry this burden himself.

[Then, Magic Librarian tenth seat Grendel Glyph Scale. Capture the nine-tails with the eighth seat and bring it to this Guran. I don't mind even if a few limbs are missing]

"Yes...as you say." (Grendel)

At the end, as soon as he heard the command of the Marshall, the light slowly returned to the room.

This was the end of the audience with the Marshall.

As Grendel stood up slowly, he rearranged his coat and breathed out a single sigh. When he stretched to check the feeling in his fists, there was still a bit of discomfort. But there was something more interesting that.

"...That demon. It was not just any demon. How much power was it hiding?...I have no idea. I think there is only one thing (思うことが一つだけある)." (Grendel)

As Grendel left the center of the Guran and walked towards the door he looked up at the high ceilings. The battle with the demon, he had also seen it in last night's dream. It was a demon that defeated the Divine Phenomenon phase skill easily, wearing an unusual appearance. Who on earth are you?

Eventually when he realized no answer was no forthcoming, he was left with only one thing to think. That is, the demon's full power was only released when he had used his palm strike.

"It was like I pushed something into its body. It was like a switch...but different, like knocking over an object or something like that." (Grendel)

He opened his grasped fist. It was still wrapped in white cloth, of course, due to his injuries. However, the Empire also had advanced healing magic. It was possible to be cured without taking too much time.

There are mainly two reasons.

First, he was waiting to devote himself to training until the injuries had gone away.

The second was his commitment to defeat them with these two fists of his. (もう一つは、この両拳が敗北したことに対する戒めだった)

With his arms wrapped to his fingertips in white he pushed the door open slowly. Once he reached the corridor, the setting sunlight greeted him. The usual sight of red carpet running in front of him seemed to burn dully from the sunlight.

“It seems like you were beat badly.” (Eighth Seat)

If there was something different from usual there, it was a colleague leaning against the wall in the hallway. A young woman with brown hair pulled back with a band. She was two years older than Grendel and was a pretty girl with freckles and a bright expression.

“Eighth seat...” (Grendel)

“Since you struggled so much despite your skill which is not so different from mine, and we want to capture it alive, isn’t it impossible?” (Eighth Seat)

“The nine-tails isn’t an issue...but the problem is another demon.” (Grendel)

She was simply playing her Ocarina in a round, when she froze for a moment realizing she didn’t understand his words. Blinking her slightly reddish eyes, the eighth seat tilted her head.

“Not vice versa?” (Eighth Seat)

“No, the problem is the other.” (Grendel)

“Hooh...so there was something interesting.” (Eighth Seat)

While she nodded, Grendel thought inwardly; until she encountered this demon herself, of course she would have this kind of attitude. But it was a monster among demons that deviates too much from common sense. That was a being that might even become a threat to the existence of the Imperial Academy.

“...But, doesn't it seem amazing?”

“What do you mean?” (Grendel)

“Gathering a mere two people for such a Demon, wouldn't four magic librarians be better, since you were defeated? I wouldn't want to taste the humiliation of defeat from a demon.”

Pocketing her Ocarina, she folded her arms behind her head and walked ahead. He took a moment to think, but then Grendel hurriedly tried following after the eighth seat who headed to the lobby first.

“Hey will you wait a moment?” (Grendel)

“Oh, did I say something strange?”

“No, four people. Including you and me, who are the other two against the Nine-tails and the Oni?” (Grendel)

“From the same report that you were defeated it was also reported that the two were heading towards Mermila—” (Eighth Seat)

“...Is it the fifth seat?” (Grendel)

“That's it. And one more person.”

One more person. As a method to completely erase it, the answer was simple.

But wouldn't that person be excessive force?

Though Grendel thought so, the eighth seat was unlikely to feel any kind of embarrassment even when she was being troublesome.

“It seems like between the third and fifth seats they will crush the Oni neatly.”

That night. It had been awhile since the sun had set.

Shuten and Hiragi had hid in the mountain near the city of water Mermila.

“For a moment I forgot that I was listening.” (Hiragi)

“Is it the kind that's rubbing against the front?” (Shuten) (マッチは手前に向けてこするタイプだが?)

“How is that important you idiot oni!” (Hiragi)

As a joke I suddenly asked her standing next to me.

As usual, the response is not too bad, and Hiragi is showing anger as if a blood vessel had broken.

But is the fluffy-tails becoming accustomed to it? The restoration of her pulsing blood vessel once broken is quick. I looked down at Hiragi as she looked up and took a deep breath.

“I still haven’t heard why Shuten is in this town, or the purpose behind your trip in the first place.” (Hiragi)

“Oh, did you finally want to hear it? No, it seem like a good thing rather than clearly wanting to break up...this older brother is happy!” (Shuten)

“Who is older than me!?!...Oh, no that’s not it! Since our destinations happen to coincide, what is your journey for?” (Hiragi)

“...Well~ I’m looking for something.” (Shuten)

“Looking for something?” (Hiragi)

“That’s it. There is one in this town, so I’m just picking it up.” (Shuten)

Plink. Plink. Plink.

Blinking three times, she looked at me. Even with an extremely serious look, she was only able to find out it was some kind of errand.

Apparently different from my ordinary exuberance, Hiragi nodded at this seemingly seriousness. Originally this errand was for me, though it was a bit disappointing with only me.

Then it would be better if she started looking for her thing first.

“Whatever you do, if you have not found what you are looking for by the time I’m done, then I can help you.” (Hiragi)

Having said that, Hiragi raised one finger.

“We can find each other easily by the pass, so shall we act separately for now? It’s a bit of a drag on me to accompany you on your errands. But once I’m done over here I will also come and help you out.” (Hiragi)

“...Hmm.” (Shuten)

I stroked my jaw. Since I do not have a beard or anything like that it was a

gentle stroke. Seeing Hiragi watching me, I nodded with a casual expression as I thought it would be okay.

“Okaay. Then are you leaving?” (Shuten)

“Well...because it’s just over here.” (Hiragi)

“See ya later then.” (Shuten)

I jumped leisurely after shaking out my hands.

The reason why they have to work separately is because they have to do this quietly. Even though I understood, there was still some loneliness.

The city of water Mermila is securely surrounded by a sturdy exterior wall unlike the village of Rene. However, it was not made any higher by magic. With Shuten’s and Hiragi’s physical ability it was possible for both to jump lightly and land on the wall without difficulty. So without hesitation both jumped towards their destinations.

She thought that it was nice to have a human-like companion, despite how unexpected a companion, and I thought that the circumstance where he would disappear would not happen no matter how many times he was burned with fox-fire.

Where does such an ethereal feeling originate?

Though there is no need to bother with such a thing.

“...Fuu.” (Hiragi)

There were bad memories. There was no reason to compare with Shuten, but there is no doubt that is a “tragic past” as well.

She jumped over the roof of a brick private house without a sound to the place where she wanted. Floating like a silver breeze in the night.

“The night winds are not bad either...I wonder where Shuten has moved?”

It felt like a journey as a traveling cook. (あの旅厨の感じている世界)

Although there is no such thing flowing through her path. Still, she did not dislike his way of thinking that made her feel as if she could recover herself again.

She stopped slowly.

It was a place she had visited once. Even after a hundred years, she could not forget it.

There were many stones scattered around casually, the only one standing out in Mermila on a hill where the moon rose behind it.

These words were engraved upon it: “General Garland Fortus rests here.”

It was the grave of the man whom Hiragi had fallen in an unrequited love with one hundred years ago.

The city of water Mermila had a relatively high standard of living even though it was located in the southeast frontier of the Empire. These were people who were well off, so many were born into good circumstances. Therefore, even when a man born here were to become a general of the Imperial Army, it is not so strange.

Garland Fortus, the second son of the Mermila’s Lord.

As far as appearance went he was helpless, yet he was a cool man who was a strong and fearless warrior. (だらしがなく、どうしようもないのうてんきで、それでも戦いに臆さず強く、カッコいい人間であった)

An opponent who had helped her a hundred years ago, and died before she could return the favor.

“...It is history now.” (Hiragi)

Due to living so long, the people who had been born and died before even seeing her could not be counted even with the fingers on both hands. But among them, Hiragi’s biggest regret was being unable to thank this man.

In front of that grave resting in a high place, it was distinctive from many tombstones. Hiragi stared at the engraved words.

“I was not able to bring anything. You died so quickly...when you were called a father...even though I...am older...” (Hiragi) (あっさり死んじゃってさ.....何がパパって呼んでくれた.....私の方が.....年上、で)

What kind of feelings were overflowing in her head, dropping to her cheeks?

She did not understand and for a moment could not think of anything.

But there is one thing left to say before his tombstone.

The reason she had come to the Empire was to say it. To convey those thoughts to that important person.

“So—” (Hiragi)

“Indeed...If you traveled all this way to visit this grave, then I might as well allow you the opportunity to see him off.” (Grendel)

“—tsu!?” (Hiragi)

She immediately turned at the sudden voice.

It was the man she had fought against that day. Long golden hair sparkled in the moonlight, a magic librarian in a black coat.

“You are...!” (Hiragi)

“Well, you see, it’s a demon. It looks like ginger noodles though (しょうがね一つぽいけどねえ *TL: whatever that means xD*).” (Eighth Seat)

“Eh!?” (Hiragi)

Grendel Glyph Scale.

At the same time I saw his figure, I heard a voice from the headstone of Garland. Turning around she remembered how easily her blood boiled, and she had shot fire reflexively.

“Do not touch that person’s tombstone!!” (Hiragi)

“Oh okay...Sorry, I didn’t know who this tomb belongs to.” (Eighth Seat)

There was a woman standing on the man’s tombstone who had the appearance of being the same age or so as Grendel. The flames thrown freely hit empty sky as the woman jumped down, and she landed lightly with a laugh.

“I see. It’s alright.” (Hiragi)

“Eighth Seat, you were on the tomb of Garland Fortus and his family members who were generals of the Imperial Army. Indeed...you should apologize to the people who died.” (Grendel)

“Yeah...I’m sorry.” (Eighth Seat)

“And you are...!!”

It was Grendel who does not alter from his composure, and a woman who was known as the Eighth Seat in this fantasy world.

“Although it is unfortunate, I cannot give up again this time because it is the order of the Sanctuary.” (Grendel)

“It’s like being trained. Please prepare.” (Eighth Seat)

I was immediately attacked.

The Eighth Seat playing an Ocarina and Grendel wearing gloves.

Both in flapping black coats, one was a guy that reminded Hiragi of a slight despair.

Magic Librarian Miss Benetta has appeared!

Magic Librarian Grendel has appeared! ▼

Chapter 6: City of Water Mermila III [Are you ready to go? Monocle Baldy]

The city of water Mermila.

From the fountain in the center there is a single big facility after heading to the south. The whole thing was painted white and shined suspiciously pale, reflecting in the moonlight.

A thin stream of water ran through the town, creating a sound pleasant to the ears.

A loud noise of a door being kicked open greatly disturbed that harmony.

“The demon has entered the town...? Are you serious...?!” (Fifth Seat)

It was an intelligent young man who stood in front of the door, somehow managing his facial expression. His blue hair was slicked back. The monocle he wore combined with his sharp eyes created the impression of a scholar, further complemented by his slender tall body.

However, as the one who wielded the large naginata, it could be felt that rather than his usual dignified appearance his expression was of intense disdain.

Imperial Academy Book Division Agency, Magic Librarian Fifth Seat. There are very few people in the Empire who did know he was one who held the title as the Honorary Director of the Imperial House Research Institute. Even fewer didn't know he hated demons.

He was a young man at the apex of the research institute with a calm disposition. Though beloved by his subordinates, he was a man with a “cold passion” who didn't spoil them.

But he hated demons.

As for the reason why, it is impossible to ask. Even just because the ones called demons were mentioned, his expression had changed from dignity to disdain.

The expression of the Fifth Seat, which had summoned the Naginata from his grimoire, had become even more distorted at that time.

“...Why are you here.” (Fifth Seat) (何故貴様がそこに居る)

“Oh. Aren’t you going after it?” (Yatano) (あら。いけませんか?)

“I do not want to miss the approach of the demon.” (Fifth Seat) (魔族見逃して良い訳がねえんだよクソロリが)

“Hehe...is that so?” (Yatano)

He couldn’t bear it.

The person who stood beside the Fifth Seat and was giving him a hard time, also kept a pole over her shoulder. However, all likeness ended there, as unlike he who carried a naginata, she only graced her shoulder with an umbrella. The frustration of the Fifth Seat only increased further due to her presence though she wore a large comfortable grin.

“How is your research on the crystalline body of mana?” (Yatano)

“How annoying for you to ask...we’ll have to set it aside for now.” (Fifth Seat)

“So, what are you going to do now?” (Yatano)

“I guess I have decided to hunt down the demon.” (Fifth Seat)

As soon as he swung the large naginata over his shoulder, there rose a dull metal sound. This was caused by the coat only worn by the Fifth Seat, which was lined with a special metal inside. He had altered his own coat from standard uniform of the magic librarians.

The girl slowly looked him up and down and with a surprised “Oh my” put a hand to her mouth.

“What is it, I will defeat him.” (Fifth Seat)

“Not that...the research seems to be fun.” (Yatano)

Snap

There was the sound of something snapping. (TL: *a run-on rant warning from our foul-mouthed researcher otaku*)

“I find research enjoyable but I wonder if this stupid idiot even understands the ^*#%# romance of discovering the unknown so I should have exterminated all of you with my magical researching partner naginata as I was supposed to be living a fulfilling life of research even now but here I am crying in sorrow because of my plight when there’s a mysterious object containing such immense magical energy but I have to go out and work even in a half-dead state without at least uncovering part of the mystery and the reason for this disappointment is because of this ^*#@*%# demon came while that foolish magic librarian Grendel has not yet returned so I couldn’t just leave the blunder alone while standing upwind even though if there had been enough time I could have observed the delicate phenomenon of these crystals up close after not gaining any glimpse of a clue to its origins and I should have been one step ahead but I was not even able to see the reaction even though the mystery was so exciting and I got all excited for nothing for those things I was supposed to experience but it is all okay even though it was your fault because I understand though even now I feel like I am being overshadowed by you, so even though I’m angry and irritated you will never understand my feelings even as I’m suffering Yatano Fuso Arcliiiigghht!!!” (Fifth Seat)

“Yes, this is Yatano.” (Yatano)

“I wasn’t expecting a reply from you when I just want to kill you!?” (Fifth Seat)

Phew, Phew

After taking a deep breath and glaring, he had received a smile and energetic reply. If his men were to see such a lack of self-restraint, he would have to apologize. Even so, he was tempted to release a terrible word. (それくらい、放つ覇気は凄まじいの一言だった。)

However, this is the Third Seat.

Against someone like her, wrath and indignation are blown away like the wind.

Tilting her umbrella, she smiled and bowed beautifully.

“...But is it an unknown mana crystal? Haven’t you seen any reaction?”
(Yatano)

“Sigh, no you idiot. No matter what magical experiments we try to repeat, even including using other countries’ magic, it will not accept anything. It might even be better for the research if there was something like a destructive explosion. When nothing can be done except to mark a 0 on the records it leaves an irritating feeling.” (Fifth Seat)

“Then...are you sure it is a mana crystal?” (Yatano)

“Nothing else can be detected from the material but a nearly 100% purity magic or some kind of substitute, so that is why we do not know what exactly is going on.” (Fifth Seat)

In regards to research, he did not dislike being asked about such things. No matter what kind of person it was. No matter how long she has lived, Yatano is not a researcher. Naturally the young honorary director’s amount of knowledge was great for an individual. (当然そのあたりの知識量は若き名誉院長の方が上であった)

“Then maybe it is a solidified body of mana extracted from the world?” (Yatano)

“...I also considered that, but if it were coagulated into a crystal of mana, then there would be no way effect from applying a magician’s energy...No.” (Fifth Seat)

“If it is a high purity solidified magic that can be seen as a crystal of mana, then of course there would be no effect even when a magician’s energy is applied.” (Yatano)

“Wrong. It is not a solidified body. It is a pure crystal of extracted magical element...and it is an amorphous ultra-high-density mana crystal with no outer shell.....!” (Fifth Seat)

“What is it...?” (Yatano)

There was one possibility.

Spontaneously, heat gathered in his hand holding the large naginata. It was not just a crystal of mana. If the formless mana of the world was extracted and partially solidified into a “high density aggregate” by chance, then there would not be an outer shell.

That crystal was not just a solid, and although it can be touched because it is high-density it is more like touching mana itself. It is like mana floating altogether on its own. (TL: *To the best of my understanding, it is like the difference between elements. Say, for example, two gases that usually float around together are indistinguishable, but are drastically different chemically. And then if one coalesces in a controlled space and changes form from say a gas to a liquid. I imagine it's this kind of concept he's talking about – though my knowledge is limited*)

“It overturns common sense...A terrifying substitute could be made...!! If I write a thesis on this subject and announce it to the whole Empire our magic can reach greater heights...!!” (Fifth Seat)

“Umm. Is it ok to raise such a conflict?” (Yatano)

“Shut up!! A research that will lead the world is in front of me!! I must quickly research it!!

I will also make those hands only holding an umbrella do an assistant's work (てめえもその番傘で助手紛いのことくらいはしてもらおうぞ)!!” (Fifth Seat)

“No, well, that is...are you listening Desiree?” (Yatano)

“What is it!?” (Fifth Seat Desiree) (TL: *pronounced Deh-zir-ay*)

What experiments would he start on as soon as he arrived back? There were many things to do. It felt like he had finally found a missing piece. Although he would like to start the experiment at once, he still had a few things to pick up and do to prepare before returning to the laboratory in consideration of safety, but Yatano pulled at the hem of the Fifth Seat – Desiree's – coat.

In annoyance he pulled his coat to escape her hand, but something she said caught his attention.

Since he was frustrated in his attempt to return early he glared at her, though Yatano simply pointed to the gate of the research institute.

“There is a visitor.” (Yatano)

“Oh, hey it's Yatano-chan~...but hey, you look great!” (Shuten)

“Please stop calling me -chan over and over.” (Yatano)

Without metaphor, the movement of Desiree stopped. (比喻抜きに、デジレの動きが停止した)

What is that? With this timing just as he was about to return to his dream of a breakthrough in research. He thought it was okay to leave it as long as it wasn't rampaging, but just as he thought so it bothered to come to this Imperial Academy 113 branch research institute without knowing anything and just trespassed, this guy.

Two twisted black horns, a demon.

“Deemmooooooooooooonnn!!!!!!” (Desiree)

“O-ohh? Who?” (Shuten)

“It's Desiree McRein. (デジレ・マクレインで) Magic Librarian Fifth Seat.” (Yatano)

“Ah, I am the demon Shuten...n? Fifth Seat? Are you okay?” (Shuten)

Quivering in fury, the trembling was unconscious as his resentment welled up.

What was this situation. There was definitely a request for subjugation, but was he lucky enough for it to save him the trouble of searching? Does such an idiot exist? Later, he would see a reaction from the mysterious magical crystal. Even though he had refrained from a close impression (感動を間近に控えていたのに).

His thoughts exploded at the unexpected scene of this demon with no sense of crisis standing before him.

“This idiot demon has come at a terrible time!! It's almost funny how close my desire for research could have been met twice yet this d&@# s^&*@* demon has crossed the line!!” (Desiree)

なんつうタイミングで来てんだよふざけんなこのオレの研究欲が満たされるぎりぎりのラインを二度も踏みにじりやがってああクソが

“Oh, I'm sorry were you busy? Rather than confronting a magic librarian, I can come back later.” (Shuten)

“Do not run!!!!” (Desiree)

“Eeh..?” (Shuten)

The demon had a genuinely unpleasant expression. For what purpose? Desiree held his grimoire Naginata and stared at the demon.

“Why are you so cheerful...do not think you can cross the threshold into the territory of the Imperial Academy and live to return home...!!” (Desiree)

“...Eh, why are you laughing?” (Shuten)

“A demon cheerfully heading home. (TL: *this seems to be a pun which doesn't translate well into English. Basically, cheerfulness is “Yoki” 陽気 and demon is also “Yoki” 妖鬼*)

Isn't it funny Desiree? Heheh.” (Yatano)

“Should I kill you both!?” (Desiree)

Along with the anger towards the bright laugh of the girl who smiled elegantly next to him, the ambition of Desiree increased.

“I and that nasty old hag there have been requested to subjugate you. And so that's why—”

Twisting his body halfway and pointing his weapon downwards, his left hand traced slowly along the handle and separated from his right hand gripping it tightly. It was like a drawn bow, a stance aimed towards killing me.

“—Quickly die you &#\$*@#* demon!” (Desiree)

The wind rippled at the feet of Desiree.

In an instant his figure disappeared, while at the same time the stone tile where he once stood was now crushed down.

The sound of clanging metal.

At the last moment, sparks scattered from the clash.



“...He-eh. I thought he was just a normal demon but...!!” (Yatano)

It was a moment that would be invisible by an ordinary person.

However, it was seen by Yatano. The sight of Shuten which not only received the attack of Desiree with a clang against his large axe, but had blocked it with a margin of space.

Though the Naginata attempted to crush him from above, the big axe had caught it. Although if Shuten made one misstep he would be bisected, the relationship of power was opposite.

He (Desiree) leapt back towards the wall in outrage.

The instinct that brushed his mind caused Desiree to leap upwards in order to obtain space to maneuver and adjust the power. (脳裏を掠めたその予感に、抜け目無く力加減を操って上空に舞い戻るデジレ)

He thought the demon was going to pursue, but he was allowed to land with a margin.

“...You seem nervous.”

“I’ve said it before, it is a habit of caution...!!” (Desiree)

To lose to a demon in force, was very possible for a human being.

However, it was different for Desiree, so long as the magic librarian does not deviate from his Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill. The secret to his skill was speed and power, combining into a heavy attack. Undoubtedly Desiree was proud of his best skill.

Yet it was repelled by force alone.

Even if he hates demons, this magic librarian is no fool when it comes to understanding ability.

“Oi Yatano...help.” (Desiree)

“...Yatano already left.” (Shuten)

“That venomous old ladyyyyyyyyyy!!” (Desiree)

A vigorous shout that roared from the heart echoed through the town.

Even when he turned around, the kimono girl was no longer nearby.

He had thought her dazzling concealment skill was terrifying, but this was the first time he had felt anger with it.

“...Is this person also wanting to play around with me?” (Desiree)

“No, I will leave after finding what I’m looking for.” (Shuten)

“Looking for?” (Desiree)

“Mysterious pearl pieces, a crystal filled with mana.” (Shuten)

“Then I have even more of a reason not to let this demon pass!!” (Desiree)

“Eeh!?!” (Shuten)

Why!? Even the savage demon tutted at him with a gentle look.

Understanding the purposes (なるほどハナから目的はそれであったかと、), once again the grimoire Naginata of Desiree faced towards Shuten.

“Do not bother yourself with such a wonderful research subject...Like you, a demon, could understand it. Oi demon, I will kill you now.” (Desiree)

Fuu, exhaling once, Desiree took a second step.

At that moment, a whirlwind of unexpected intimidation rose up around him.

— Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill [Ancient Refining Blade Edge Rising Forge]
— (TL: *It's quite the confusing skill name but this is what I ended up with from this* 清廉老驥せいれんろうき振るう頭椎大刀かぶつちのたち)

His Naginata became dyed in dark blue.

There was an eruption of an awesome aura and explosive increase of intimidation.

Those intelligent eyes of jade were dyed red, looking at Shuten.

“It is a kind of mana, that covers all living things...Hey idiot demon, where do you think magic originates in creatures?” (Desiree)

“...I do not know.” (Shuten)

“The answer is the cells. Not only humans and demons but the cells within all living organisms will have magic. Also, the allotted portion in life seems to

depend upon this amount.” (Desiree) (TL: *basically a variation in birthright for magic*)

He heard a sound like something burning.

The source of the sound is precisely from his naginata. Looking at it, the boundary line between the dark blue aura and the ordinary atmosphere of the naginata scraped against each other as if sharpening the edge.

“Demons have a much higher amount of magic inhabiting their body than any other living creature. Aah, demons and monsters, are both the same kind of vermin...these wanna-be rulers who trample on everything are merely garbage...!!” (Desiree)

“tsu!?” (Shuten)

It was an instantaneous battle. Desiree’s thrusts markedly increased in speed.

“My Divine Phenomenon [Ancient Refining Blade Edge Rising Forge] is an absolute monster against that kind of strength!! Against all magical existences in this world!! It will all break apart when I touch it!!” (Desiree)

At that time he had to step faster in order to avoid the faster attacks, as the great naginata blade was thrust with tremendous momentum.

The moment it struck Shuten’s face, blood gushed out from his ear and cheek.

“Haaaaaaaah!?” (Shuten)

“I told you...the moment I touch. For example, say, if my grimoire naginata were to touch you.” (Desiree)

“Grrr...!!” (Shuten)

“Hah!!” (Desiree)

Wielding the Demon Slayer, at the moment of contact with the Naginata, the blade was chipped as if it were hit by a chainsaw.

“Well, that’s not it, but it’s enough...That big axe is a magic tool...It’s a weapon with so much mana...how unfortunate!!” (Desiree)

“Oh, is that what you think?” (Shuten)

“Aaah!?” (Desiree)

Trying to prevent a strike from the magic-exuding Demon Slayer, Desiree in desperation was hit by an intense kick of tremendous force.

It was enough momentum to send him flying towards the entrance. Impacting against the wall, Desiree created a giant hole and rolled down among crumbling stones.

“Tough...” (ぐほっ) (Desiree)

“I will not lose in a battle of power!!” (Shuten)

“Why you...!!” (Desiree)

Lying on the ground, a shadow in Desiree’s view slammed towards him.

As soon as he hurriedly rolled out of the way, cracks ran along the ground. The smash of the Demon Slayer shattered the ground right next to him.

“Why you...to the important research institute for the people...!!” (Desiree)

“Wouldn’t it just be better to give me the pearl piece?...I’ll get angrier with more pain.” (Shuten)

“You’ve got to be kidding me...!!” (Desiree)

As soon as he tried to utter a complaint. Probably because of the recent blow of the Demon Slayer there was a grand scale collapse at his feet.

“The first floor basement...!!” (Desiree)

“Hmm? There’s a basement here?” (Shuten)

“What kind of carefree falling is this!!” (Desiree)

“It seems the reaction of the pearl piece is below us.” (Shuten)

“Reaction...!? There is no evidence anywhere that the crystal was releasing something—” (Desiree)

“Oh, so the other one is below us?” (Shuten)

“Idiot!! Stop it!” (Desiree)

The two people were certainly causing ruination. (あえなく落下する二人)

The place that was hit was a corner in the basement for many passages below.

And so, as Shuten once more struck the floor without expression, he felt something break.

Crack. Grind. Collapse

“Don’t be ridiculous!! Our precious research facility!!” (Desiree)

“I did not intend to do so such a thing here. But since I have let down my guard please forgive me.” (Shuten)

“Like I’d forgive this idiot!!” (Desiree)

How much power does he have to crush the floor with a single blow? At the same time he shuddered at its horrible power, his anger against this unreasonable demon that broke the ceiling built up without him knowing.

However, this figure is that of a magic librarian of the Imperial Academy, which boasts the “world’s strongest” and invokes the Divine Phenomenon Phase Skills. He could already say nothing bad about Grendel.

Boom

He crashed to the ground. Next time, he wouldn’t show such an ungraceful landing.

Suddenly more of the ceiling broke, and the two people fell from the sky. Even though by itself it is a ridiculous situation, the scary Fifth Seat was at MAX voltage, and opposing him was a demon emanating a tremendous aura.

“Fifth Seat!?”

“Uwawawawa!!”

Many of the researchers were either stunned or incontinent.

“Aaaah...!! Our precious research equipment...seriously unacceptable...!! I will absolutely not forgive you b&@^\$&*/...!!” (Desiree)

“Uwa” (Shuten)

When Shuten looked around at him and saw the tears of blood before him, words of apology wanted to come out. (シュテンはあたりを見回して、それから正面で血の涙を流すデジレを見て、謝るよりも先にそんな言葉がでた)

He seemed to have fallen down into the middle of the now-broken research

facility.

And something was rolling under his feet. A Dusky black stone.

“A reaction...!?” (Desiree)

His eyes were glued to the dark colored pearl that Shuten held. Perhaps it had not been discolored until Shuten had arrived.

Ja (SFX for stepping/light impact on gravel or a similar rough surface, such as broken concrete)

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!! This evil ^*\$%)\$ woooooooooooooorrrmmm!!” (Desiree)

Pushing through the gap of the moment, Shuten leapt upward. (その一瞬の隙を突き、シュテンは空高く跳躍した)

However, the expression of Shuten was cloudy.

“...Hmm? Is there another pearl piece here?” (Shuten)

After Shuten found a pearl piece, the detector instantly switched to the next closest pearl piece.

Shuten slowly pocket the bead-like item, then landed onto the first floor and looked downward.

“...Discoloration...changed due to the approach of a demon...wrong...looking for...super high density amorphous magic crystal...a demon of unusual strength...” (Desiree)

The second floor basement. In the middle of the frightened researchers, Desiree held the sparkling pearl. From the content of his murmuring, Shuten shuddered.

“Oioi...Don’t you realize what that is...?” (まさか自力でこれがどんなものか気づくってのかよ)

Putting Shuten aside, hypotheses were assembled in Desiree’s brain at a high speed.

“Experimental body is okay...Experiment prediction...super-strengthening of the body by binding high-density magic...” (Desiree)

Unable to deflect his gaze from the man, Shuten couldn’t hide his discomfort

at the content of the murmurings.

It was then. While Desiree stared at Shuten with a dreadful smile.

“Is it wrong? You idiot Oni.” (Desiree)

At that time, Desiree swallowed the pearl piece.

Chapter 7: City of Water Mermila IV [The Long and Short of a Sweet Ocarina]

(Hiragi POV)

I am completely trapped.

Yes, these are the most appropriate words to express my current state of mind.

Eh, what? When I came to visit the grave of a man who I liked in the old days, I was unexpectedly trapped. I was just going to visit the grave, but it seems I might join him down below.

But even if I have remodeled their military uniform, they should forgive the offense since it's cute. Even if the Imperial Academy has come here to kill me, considering the design I thought they should probably only leave me half-killed.

...This is not the time to think about that.

The two enemies wearing black coats were casually intimidating.

On either side there is the one who had scarred her previously and the other who had rode the tombstone like a kudzu vine. The Imperial Academy seems to be lacking in decent people.

What was the worst was this. The rude woman was staring at me with open hostility, a girl who seems to be wielding an ocarina. What kind of songs are planning to perform in a graveyard? Vocal magic? ...The magic of the Empire has many variations.

So, the one who is observing me with a calm and composed appearance is making me nervous.

Ah, yes-yes I am a demon who doesn't know how to deal with you. I want to get away. I want to escape so much. Seriously. I want to go where Shuten has gone. Though it's annoying, it'll be better if I escape.

I will help you! Telling him that...No, even at the back of that demon I could

do nothing against these two magic librarians chasing me. Such a lie is lost in the blink of an eye.

Firstly, I have to explore well the opportunity to escape.

Winning? I did not think about that sort of thing. It would be too much for me who is currently weakened.

“...Hey, do you know the Marshall?” (Grendel)

“What?” (Hiragi)

An abrupt question came from the pretentious blonde.

I think Shuten said his name, but what was it? Pretzel?

Pretzel asked if I know the Marshall.

...Yeah, maybe it's not pretzel. But for convenience it will be pretzel.

Pretzel is good enough for you. (TL: *pft, haha. She might be spending too much time with Shuten*)

Nonetheless, I didn't know anything about the hierarchy of the Imperial Academy...least of all the Marshall. If I had to guess it would probably be a human. Which does not have a long life.

“...Since how long has that guy been alive?” (Hiragi) “...”

Asking the pretzel while emphasizing my foot stomping on the ground. I might be able to obtain information while I stall for time. Measuring the chance to escape, I wait for his words.

I wonder if I can get him off guard. Though it is not necessarily a win.

But since the rude freckled woman seems to be on lookout. This was probably the reason why Pretzel could afford to talk.

I would like to burn the woman who had been sitting on the tombstone right now, but...I do not know what kind of attack will come from her ocarina... certainly she wouldn't use it to hit with, right? Blow! Do you want to tell me that is a means of attack?

I'm scared of the magic librarians following me...and I don't know what I would tell Shuten...

“...the Marshall has been alive at least before I was born. But since you were sealed a hundred years ago, that’s probably not the answer you were looking for.” (Grendel)

“Oh yeah...Thanks to that, it’s become somewhat awkward, hasn’t it?” (Hiragi) (そうよ.....おかげでこんな無様になってしまったけれど、それが?) “No, I bet he has been alive since that time. Or, it may be more correct to say that he is not dead.” (Grendel) What is this pretzel saying? With such a fearless smile floating up to me.

Were you trying to say something cool? (カッコいいこと言ったつもりな訳?) Does he mean like an undead or disembodied soul? There is no person like that outside the Imperial Academy. Although I feel that Yatano is kind of an exception...is that Marshall based on the same idea? In other words, the Soul Jewel Seal? (だとすれば魂魄封珠) “Has he lost his shape?” (Hiragi)

“...That’s the case. But even if he has lost his shape there are no particular obstacles...Do you know which of the buildings of the Imperial Palace were remodeled in your time period?” (Grendel) “I don’t know about such a thing.” (Hiragi)

“The answer is that that a building of the Imperial Palace was remodeled to now be known as the Imperial Academy.” (Grendel) “Wha...” (Hiragi)

My voice leaked out in spite of myself. It was obvious that if the Imperial Academy Agency was established by the emperor, then naturally the Imperial Academy would be near the royal family.

I still do not know much about the origins of the Imperial Academy, such as the existence of the “Marshall of the former Emperor’s Office,” and there are still answers missing.

Even more so if anger arises every time it is brought up. (ましてや、私を連行しようという腹なら尚更のこと。)

To think that, That man. To think that he would still live by using the energy of Soul Jewels.

“Talos, the fifth generation...?” (Hiragi)

“The Marshall seems to want to see you.” (Grendel) “...!” (Hiragi)

I bit my lip. The possibility was low, but I didn't want to be right. Because it's troubling.

I just decided yesterday to not get involved. I will not go to the capitol, just greet Garland and leave the Empire quietly. Yes, I decided yesterday.

Don't remind me, since I have just decided not to try and take revenge on the Empire. Just the thought that he might be alive makes me want to burn up the capitol...!!

Talos II. The Emperor of the time a hundred years ago who made me mess up.
(百年前の私を滅茶苦茶にした、時の皇帝)

Why is he living like that?

Besides, why bother calling me now.

...Also, I will say something now that I am out of the seal.

Please leave me alone.

"Hey Tenth Seat. I guess this guy is fascinated with magic, but is it really okay to take it as it is?" (Bentta) "Mu...basically its charming magic won't work. I didn't even notice." (Grendel)

"I think the reason is because of your lack of combat sense." (Benetta) (その辺が戦闘に向かないって言われる理由っぽいよね)

.....

Who is this ocarina-thing who tagged along.

Thank you for resisting it Pretzel. I will only give gratitude for now. It's in my mind. I mean it. Though it is refreshing, it seems the hostility or murderous intent will not stop from... the Eighth Seat? What is it? It looks like an ocarina.

"A woman who influenced the Empire a hundred years ago with her enchantment magic...is being the heroine of a tragedy enjoyable?" (Benetta)

...huh?

"Who is...!!" (Hiragi)

"Wait a moment Eighth Seat, I still have something I want to ask." (Grendel)

“It looks like a long time though?” (Benetta)

“Please do not say so...well.” (Grendel)

This thing is annoying...

Just stay silent and blow on your ocarina. Ah, I do not know what will happen if the ocarina is being used. Shut up and go home. Is there any possibility you will leave me alone?

Hah...I want to get away quickly.

Nevertheless, if I could leave so easily, I would have run away earlier.

As usual Pretzel never lost his serious expression. Seemingly unaware of the charming magic, he really doesn't seem to have much of a combat sense. I was made to understand earlier though that his man named Pretzel was a considerable fighter who covered the absence of that sense with experience.

Hmm...just a little longer, now what? The sorcery I'm dripping little by little, cannot be seen under the cover the charm curse.

“What do you want to ask?” (Hiragi)

“...To be honest I want to know what the Marshall is thinking. The Marshall who disliked the invasion of the demons in the Empire as much as possible, told me to bring you to Headquarters, and I wondered if you knew the true reason why.” (Grendel) “You should ask him yourself.” (Hiragi)

“Haha...He is quite the difficult boss.” (Grendel)

Why are you shrugging your shoulders and laughing in resignation? It is hard to say how selfish that love of his is. That trashy emperor.

I wonder if this pretzel should be put in cocoa. (TL: *I don't really get why she says this, but it seems to me like she's saying he'd be more useful as a treat, like a chocolate-covered pretzel*)

“However, in consideration of the dangers generally caused by him, we would normally consult the first seat...the Marshall is not good with the First Seat. While she is absent he does whatever he wants.” (Grendel)

“Is that so, I'm not all that interested.” (Hiragi) “That's true. Excuse me.”

(Grendel)

Well, why are you telling me?

That concluded, Pretzel looked at me. His eyes of jade grabbed me and did not let go. If I were to glance behind him, miss Ocarina was also staring at me with eyes full of hatred.

I do not know why she dislikes me so murderously, but is it not just because I am a demon?

Like this, it will not be easy to escape where Shuten is.

...I wonder where such ideas come from.

I feel like my heart has weakened along with my body. Or in other words...I am cowardly. I'm scared of scary things.

Since Pretzel is the weakest it is certain that miss Ocarina's ability is stronger than Pretzel's. Against such two people even with luck I cannot win.

Then, at the very least I want to escape.

If possible, I hope I can make it to Shuten.

...Okay.

"Aah!! A flock of flying Yatano!!" (Hiragi)

"What!?" (Grendel)

Some fox-fire exploded causing Pretzel to look back in a panic. The explosion was caused by a fuse-like line of magic I had been dripping.

"It's obviously a lie!! Is the Tenth Seat stupid!?" (Benetta)

"Ku...didn't you want to see it, if she was there...!!" (Grendel)

Oh, it seems Pretzel had a bit of a pure heart.

If so that makes me laugh a bit. Sense of guilt?...Well, just a bit.

But I do not want to die!!

I leapt backward in the momentary gap.

Well, all that's left is to run far away!!

“I don’t want to see you ever again!! Bye—” (Hiragi) “Do you think you can escape?” (Benetta)

In the end the Eighth Seat with her ocarina was faster.

— Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill [Capital Letter Blazing Prison Color]

The tone that resounded rung in my ears painfully, and by the time I was able to think I was surrounded.

As soon as I realized I had been wrapped in a blazing orange flame, it suddenly burst and attacked me.

For an instant I couldn’t understand what had happened...Ah, I...cannot... breathe...

“Ah...huh...” (Hiragi)

“I should have done this from the beginning.” (Benetta) “Please don’t say that. I was negotiating.” (Grendel) “I don’t know what you mean.” (Benetta)

“Because I was slightly curious...Well, I did not expect it to try to escape.” (Grendel)

Somewhere in the distance, I heard the voices of two people.

I had almost no consciousness, and my vision dimmed.

...Oh, just a bit more.

I wished to become a little bit stronger.

With how terrible I have been, I can no longer face him.

Shuten, sorry.

“...So the Marshall kidnapped Hiragi? I do not want to forgive such an action.” (Yatano)

It seemed like the voice of someone muttering nearby could be slightly heard.

Chapter 8: City of Water Mermila V [Pearl Pieces, and the Reaction to its Power]

“Experiment Success...!!” (Desiree)

“Haha...hey wait a moment and listen to me magic librarian before you swallow a pearl piece...” (Shuten)

What kind of joke is this.

That was the only thought occupying my chest.

What was this? (何だよそりゃあよ) Didn't the Goddess say human beings couldn't take it in?

Or perhaps, does this mean a magic librarian is on the level of the monster?

Unconsciously, I found a gulp shuddering through my throat that I couldn't stop.

The basement second floor. Although it is more than ten meters difference in height, I can certainly feel the intimidation of that baldy.

Slicking back his blue hair, his mouth twisted at the corners into a smirk.

“Now I clearly understand the reason why you are looking for it...its seems this demon has only power caught in its sight.” (Desiree)

“That's not it, I'm gathering them because the balance of the world will collapse otherwise, that's the kind of mindset I have.” (Shuten)

“Ho...? Surely the power balance is already disturbed...what were you doing with such a lofty idea?” (Desiree)

“You're just a little too idiotic Monocle Baldy.” (Shuten)

“Mono...!?” (Desiree)

His eyes opened wide.

If you provoke me I'll provoke you. Even if it is Monocle Baldy.

Though there is a large difference in our ages. (年齢俺と大して変わらんっぽいけ

と)

“...I will kill you in earnest.” (Desiree)

“I have a reason to kill you now.” (Shuten)

He took in a pearl piece.

To be honest, it wasn't a problem to lose one. I have given one to Flare Reel, and surely if there is one or two less the goddess will not get angry.

However, if the other party becomes the Imperial Academy, then it is a different story.

I do not know about the magic librarians, but the center of the Imperial Academy is a group of people who want to conquer the world. If the existence of the pearl pieces is brought to such a place, then the balance of power will quickly collapse.

“Fuu...” (*SFX for exhaling, don't know who says it*)

That man, Desiree, jumped. In a moment he was on the same first floor as me.

Hid black coat fluttering, he rearranged his monocle and readied his naginata.

Between me and that guy, there is only the ground floor that I had hit and broken earlier.

However, this is really bad. It cannot be helped anymore...the only thing left is to kill him and recover the pearl piece like I did at the time of the Kuchiinu.

...I'll have to get serious.

“Come, Monocle Baldy. I will split your forehead splendidly.” (Shuten)

“These words of a cockroach” (Desiree)

“Who is a cockroach!! These respectable horns are not antennae!!” (Shuten)

“And I'm not bald!! I just have a broad forehead!!” (Desiree)

Holding the Demon slayer, I glanced over for a moment.

He disappeared.

Now!!

The sound of metal rang out, and the wind pressure blew up.

“Gu, watch it...!!” (Shuten)

“Hooh...my power has increased...to the extent that I can suppress this thing!!” (Desiree)

“It’s not that sweet is it!!” (Shuten) (甘くみてんじゃ、ねエ)

The clashing of my axe and the naginata is enough to raise a windstorm.

And with pure technical skill, reached even higher speeds.

But my only proprietary patent is raw power...!!

With a high speed sidestep, I avoided Desiree and swung towards the guy, who fell back with a half step. Obviously he avoided it just as the large axe covered his immediate area.

“One sec.” (Shuten)

“Why you-” (Desiree)

The iron blade attacked and traced along the handle of the big axe to flip up the Demon Slayer. Then, when I tried to place a kick on his solar plexus, it was prevented by the naginata handle.

Leaping upward, I swung the Demon Slayer from above.

Instantly understanding its trajectory, the naginata deflected it with minimal movement.

“I will not be the one to receive the attack properly...!”

“Tsu...!!!” (Shuten)

I fell while changing my posture slightly, and landed low while blocking the naginata, then attacked from below by kicking towards his chin.

“Stop kicking!” (Desiree)

“Ha...!!” (Shuten)

Wielding the Demon Slayer, Desiree avoided being grazed by it by moving his head. The response from his naginata was fast, and sparks scattered from the direct clash. At the same time, there was tremendous wind pressure, causing

my hair to fly around.

The conflict of the forces...reflected each other, and withdrew. We jumped back from each other.

“...Huh, equal. I don’t mind it though.” (Shuten)

“It’s this arrangement.” (Desiree)

Spitting out his words like discarding them, he was shocked. Although I’d agree that we’re evenly matched, I’m the one who is shocked.

He is still using his Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill.

“Well, okay. Trying to surpass this monster Oni with pure physical skill...may not be realistic. But with this, it is a different story.” (Desiree)

Then, the large naginata of Desiree is dyed dark blue.

The aura that sprung from that strong man and drifting is completely different from the former one.

Ohh, this is a battle to the death.

It is not on the same level as fighting Grendel.

—Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill [Ancient Refining Blade Edge Rising Forge]

—

Shaking his Naginata, he drew his body back into the stance.

Well, I can do it too. I did it in the fight with the Kuchiinu, charge.

Pulling my Demon Slayer behind me as if to swing it like a bat. This is my strongest attack.

Fill it with my strength, with magic, all of my power.

In this hand wielding the Demon Slayer, through my arms and legs. Save it up. Just for one victorious blow.

“Die, you %\$&*# demon.” (Desiree)

“Come on over Monocle Baldy.” (Shuten)

Did he move at the same time he spoke? The distance between both sides shrinks without hesitation. I swung the great axe like it was bamboo. On the

other side, Desiree released his naginata with a swing.

Along with a tremendous sound, huge sparks scattered where the Demon Slayer and the large naginata hit. I clench my teeth and put as much as I can to push against the Divine Phenomenon...and crush it...!

“What..!?” (Desiree)

“Whether it’s your Divine Phenomenon or just your magical ability...!! Either way, it is only a matter of putting in power that surpasses it..!!!” (Shuten)

“I have never heard...of such a countermeasure...although it is technically correct...there is no one who wields such individual force...!!” (Desiree)

Sound, power, and light criss-cross between me and Desiree, just like a chainsaw cutting against an iron plate.

Thanks to the charge or something like that the Demon Slayer wasn’t sliced, but it is still obvious that the blade is being scratched.

Keep it up just a little longer Demon Slayer...!

“Ha...It seems my Divine Phenomenon was aimed too high, ^#%&!!” (Desiree)

“Aaaaaaahhhhh!!” (Shuten)

Desiree’s aura increased.

At the same time, I could see in my mind’s-eye that my Demon Slayer would be overwhelmed in a moment. Whether for good or bad, I was blown away into the wall.

“Gah...!!” (Shuten)

Oh...I was fortunate not to hit my head.

My breathing is a bit painful, but it’s still fine.

Desiree was breathing hard, with his posture returning the grimoire naginata to his shoulder. It seems his eyes still glare at me in disdain, still lighted by murderous intent, and I want to say that those are my eyes.

“After killing you, that research-worthy crystal...the pearl pieces? I will collect them.”

“Ha ha...Is that so?” (Shuten)

“Can you hold only one?” (Desiree)

“...Well, if I’m fighting like this while holding a pearl piece...I’ll be suspicious, right...?” (Shuten)

Huh...

Even though my opponent was a magic librarian, I thought that if the other party only had one pearl piece I’d be fine.

Pulling it out of my shirt, I roll the darkened pearl in the palm of my hand.

“Somehow, I still can’t integrate it.” (Shuten)

“Huh?” (Desiree)

“Since it’s painful, I don’t really want to use it.” (Shuten)

“It seems like you are quite the sweet guy.” (Desiree)

“Oh well...rather than handing over the pearls to a magic librarian, if it is between killing you in exchange for suffering, or inadvertently being killed by you, I’d choose the former.” (Shuten)

“...Then I will kill you while you are tormented by pain.” (Desiree)

“Uh, please wait a minute?” (Shuten)

“Don’t compare to those stupid Kingdom Knights.” (Desiree)

Alright.

I certainly got a flashy injury, though my back is still sore from hitting it.

Pulling myself from the cracked wall, I get up. No, I’m sure the research institute is ruined.

“You have been killed by an upper rank, and if pardoned you will be used to promote my study of the pearl pieces.” (Desiree) (お前が上位に殺されて、珠片の研究とか進められても勘弁だしな)

“Should such words come from the honorable president of the research institute?” (Shuten)

“It’s a title only.” (Desiree)

“That’s not an honor you idiot!!” (Shuten)

Always talking crap about people, every time.

.....Fuu.

In front of us was the stony ground. Extremely broken stones.

“...Have you resolved yourself?” (Shuten)

“Even a hopeless demon like you can feel pain right?” (Desiree)

“I’m a bit curious about your balding.” (Shuten)

“Who the heck is bald!” (Desiree)

“I wonder who else I could call bald!!” (Shuten)

“...Hmm?” (Desiree)

“...Hmm?” (Shuten)

“Oh my?” (Yatano)

.....

.....

How long has she been there.

At that time between me and Desiree, that person was standing one step from us.

“Yataaannnnoooo!! Where did you ^*#\$()@# go!? Is this the kind of job that you feel like you can just play around and take a walk whenever you feel like it!? Did you also feed the pigeons!? I’m seriously gonna kill you!!” (Desiree)

“A pigeon...would be too afraid for me to get close...” (Yatano) “That’s not what I’m talking about!!” (Desiree)

What is this, a comic skit planned beforehand? Is it the once-in-a-lifetime climax? A stage showing guts? She was standing in the way, and a comedy was starting in front of me. What are they doing?

Between Desiree and I. Although the common person would have been blown away just by the wind pressure from our scuffle, it seems to be nothing much to Yatano-chan.

Well...that's probably how it is.

How many pieces would it take to be able to fight her? I cannot even imagine.

Holding her umbrella as usual, she looked towards me with a serious face.

Hmm?

"I am sorry to interrupt you in the middle of a serious battle, but can you both stop here?" (Yatano)

"Haaa? I don't understand you suddenly coming out like this...! Were you missing out, and tired of leaving this demon to me?" (Desiree)

"To put it properly, that's it, a small problem has occurred." (Yatano)

"A problem?" (Shuten)

Asking about it, I turned my head that had been facing Desiree, and Yatano nodded towards me. Her expression is serious, and made me feel somewhat unpleasant.

The next words that came out of her mouth after she nodded, I could kind of predict which direction they were going to take.

"Yes. Hiragi has been kidnapped by the Marshall. It is impossible with my authority to stop it. Please go." (Yatano) "Hiragi?" (Shuten)

I cannot imagine him being done in so easily, but in what kind of state has Grendel returned in? Are magic librarians unable to sleep?

"Hey Yatano...Do you mean to say you don't mind a demon stepping on the soil of the Imperial capitol...?" (Desiree)

"What would you do if I said that was so?"

"...This superior. I only thought about dragging you off of the third seat, but from now on...I will kill you for obstructing librarian forces." (Desiree)

"Is that so?" (Yatano)

It seems like the atmosphere between this comedy duo is bad. This could dissolve quickly. (これは解散もありえる) It doesn't seem to be a joking situation, so I'd better hurry.

Fortunately Hiragi is still alive. I can tell through the kindred connection. But she was caught and abducted. That's why...

"Please go Shuten. I cannot go against the Imperial Academy." (Yatano)

"Hey nasty old hag, the mission to kill the demon is still ongoing." (Desiree)

"I've decided to heed the order after all this fuss." (Yatano)

Yatano turned her back towards me and faced Desiree.

Well, I wonder if you should let me go...

"Oh, can you tell me something?" (Shuten)

"What do you want to know?" (Yatano)

"Why are you trying to save Hiragi?" (Shuten)

"Originally I didn't feel any commitments, but...just a little my thoughts have changed." (ちょっと、思うところがありまして) (Yatano)

"Would you tell me?" (Shuten)

Turning suddenly and looking back at me she pressed her index finger against her lips and smiled a bit.

"It's a secret." (Yatano)

"Oh I see, a secret? Well then I will have to ask again." (Shuten)

Even so there was no use.

Re-shouldering the Demon Slayer, I put the pearl piece in my pocket.

The goal is the Imperial City. I wanted to enjoy this carefree traveling a bit more but I do not know what will happen now that she's kidnapped but I think I want to help.

She's my cute kindred after all.

"Wait you &%*#\$&!!" (Desiree)

Desiree shouted and leapt forward, shaking the large naginata.

Shuten had instantly leaped out of the research institute through the broken wall, and had already jumped across town.

However, now Desiree had enough leg power to chase him down.

Trying to click his tongue in disdain, he then noticed the presence of a girl now standing in front of him.

No, he was the one who was noticed.

“...Unfortunately, I cannot let you pass by.” (Yatano)

Closing her umbrella with a snap, she pointed it at Desiree. Yatano wore no expression.

However, an enormous magical power that had been enclosed in her small body swiftly appeared from her.

“...Hey Yatano.” (Desiree)

“What is it?” (Yatano)

“Why are you defending it?” (Desiree)

“...When I was young, do you know the reason why my older sister who once played with me called me a monster?” (Yatano)

“...It’s not a bad term for something like you.” (Desiree)

“Is that so?” (Yatano)

“Tsutsu...Well I don’t care enough to pry.” (Desiree)

Beyond that, she did not seem to remember the rest. (向こうは、覚えていないみたいでしたけど)

Though her smile was a little lonely, her gaze never deviated from Desiree for even a second.

It seemed to be no reason for it, but it just didn’t seem like Yatano even thought to lend her power.

“Okay, I understand how it is &*%^#\$.” (Desiree)

Eventually, Desiree slowly said these words.

Yatano Fuso ArcLight. He did not know how strong she was, as she kept herself aloof from the world and only occasionally sat in the third seat.

“I took in the mana crystal called a pearl piece and now, as a result, I can say

that my competence has increased by more than 30%.” (Desiree)

He exhaled deeply.

“Because of that, I am able to look at your issues properly. For example, the competence of the opponent before my eyes. Indeed, the difference of heaven and earth between you and I, I understood it well.” (Desiree)

This power had been hidden intentionally.

He can finally recognize the hidden “facts” with his eyes, ears, nose, and senses. As her concentrated aura pulsed in occasional bursts, he obtained glimpses of understanding.

“What are you planning to do? With me.” (Yatano)

“I will not even give you a &%\$*# opportunity to retaliate.” (Desiree)

Standing upright, and drawing back taught like a bow, he released the large Naginata like an arrow. The concentrated blue aura that had sprung up towards Shuten again arose.

“Lend me your chest, Third Seat.” (Desiree)

“I refuse.” (Yatano)

“Aah!?” (Desiree)

Shing and in an instant the aura of Desiree’s faded away.

With a look of disbelief that his attack had been rejected, Desiree stared at Yatano in irritation. She looked into the distance beyond the hole in the wall Shuten had leapt from and muttered.

“If you ask me ‘why did you defend him?’ then the answer is the same as before. But if you ask ‘why did you stop me?’ then it is a different story Desiree.” (Yatano)

“What are you saying...!?!” (Desiree)

Suddenly, Desiree found he was unable to balance on his feet and unexpectedly fell to his knees, holding his mouth as he felt as if he were about to vomit and his vision was dyed in red.

“Guha...!?” (Desiree)

It was then that Yatano turned to face Desiree.

“If you had continued as is, it would have been Desiree who had died.”
(Yatano)

“...This, is...” (Desiree)

He felt an intense internal pain, like something was burning down his throat.

A severe pain pulsed through his whole body in a far different realm from the pain during the training he had received. It violently shook his soul rather than his body, causing even a mighty magic librarian to fall to the ground.

“...Probably, if a normal human being had taken the substance in it would have been extremely toxic. They would die the moment they ingested it. That intense pain you are dealing with now is that...so just go rest quietly.” (Yatano)

“...But, that...but...!!” (Desiree)

“It is already impressive to have not lost consciousness.” (Yatano)

Desiree collapsed to the continuous severe aching, though was not dying.

However, even if he was unable to get up, she had to admire his guts for trying to move his body by digging his nails into the floor and trying to push himself up.

“Besides, Shuten was not going all out. If it had become a drawn-out battle you would have definitely died.” (Yatano) “What...?” (Desiree)

“Please think carefully. He is a demon. It has a surprisingly strong body that cannot be forgotten, but the essence of demons is an Oni’s power...Shuten is not even in a “demonized” state (生身で驚くほど強いので忘れかけるところではありますがけれど、妖鬼の本質は鬼のエネルギー.....”鬼化”すらしていない状態なので、シュテンは).” (Yatano)

Enduring the pain filling his whole body, Desiree kept his eyes open as his blood flowed.

“Demonization” (TL: *or Onika 鬼化, I kind of wish I had a better term for this, if you guys can come up with a better one I’d love to know*)

It is the demon itself as well as the demon’s essence, and is the reason why

they are feared. (TL: *from what I can tell, this demonization is like a demon soul, and probably the source of their magic? It also seems to encompass a special ability.*)

“A demon un-demonized is like a magic librarian who does not use their divine phenomenon...it is interesting that the situation would arise where he would meet Desiree in this state .” (Yatano) “.....” (Desiree)

“Oh....I will carry you to your bed later.” (Yatano)

At last she looked at Desiree and saw that he fainted. Yatano smiled gently while hiding her mouth with the sleeve of her kimono.

With him, life will not be any different. In any case, she was relieved that things have happened without any unnecessary killing.

“There is no reason to use it, but that technique truly eats up a large amount of magical power, though in a situation that he may have been killed by Desiree, I think he would have spared the expense...Perhaps it is not usable yet.

“Demonization” is like a soul boost. The nature of Shuten is close to a human so it might take some exertion to use the power of his soul

Alone, Yatano could only think of that strange humanoid demon.

Beyond the collapsed wall the full moon illuminated the night sky.

“He’s a young demon...so unless something activates in the soul then it cannot be invoked arbitrarily, clearly. I thought that since he overwhelmed Grendel without a scratch he had used ‘demonization’ but...” (Yatano)

Thinking that far, Yatano shook her head as if there was no help for it.

“The legendary Oni Shuten. He is still a bit weak to inherit the name, but he is a young newcomer to look forward to. Though the Shuten of Ibuki I know of had mastered his demonization, so how strong could he be?” (Yatano)

Indeed, it is an exciting potential.

Grinning, Yatano’s smile was full of happiness.

Chapter 9: Imperial Capitol Gransil I [Ta-Dah, it's an Interview]

Hiragi was somehow kidnapped.

And one of the pearls had been consumed by that stupid brute Desiree.

Currently I had secured one in my pocket, but the trauma from absorbing one has still not faded. It is true that I had grasped it in my hands, but...It won't be absorbed from my hand, right? Right?

Well, next time I see Desiree, I will kill him. Beat him to death. Because of that guy's Divine Phenomenon, my right ear was still bleeding.

I had broken the walls of his institute to my heart's content, but he had gone above and beyond by coming at me with Maximum hatred. At that time I will seriously kill him. I will not forgive you Desiree.

Putting that aside, I am running right now not to continue my journey, but for Hiragi. That is why I'm rushing to the Imperial City Gransil right now.

I don't really get it...but when I touch my chest, the path to her is still connected. There is no effect on our bond of magical power, and it seems like nothing has died. I can't explain it well. From the tone of Yatano's words, it seems unlikely to continue well.

Jumping and leaping over the trees, I remember earlier times.

All the way back to when I helped that little vampire girl named Flare Reel in the abandoned mine. Around that time I was feeling frustrated because I hadn't traveled far enough and so I didn't know if, or when, I was going to be killed by the protagonist Crane's party.

I do not know what errand Hiragi was on, but it is unexpected timing that the magic librarians would attack at that moment.

Eh, what? Perhaps the timing had been planned, when I think about it carefully.

Only four of the ten magic librarians in the world had gathered in a single

small town? How horrifying is that!

Huh. I did not think Grendel would come out with the other magic librarians. (TL: *probably because he assumed he would be with Crane's party and not cross paths with him much?*)

The distance between the water city Mermila and the Imperial City Gransil is about to the extent that I can reach it tomorrow if I run at this speed.

Even if I do not sleep one day, the body of a demon is sturdy enough that I will still be at full strength, so there is no need to worry about that.

But the question left is why Yatano-chan bothered to tell me that Hiragi was kidnapped to the Imperial Capitol. It seems that she was worrying about whether she should go to the capitol herself, but is it really because of fate that my companion was also alive? (,因縁のある相手も生きてたのかね) Not only are there existences such as Yatano-chan, there may be some powerful others who know Hiragi, and who do not put value on life.

Perhaps that man from Hiragi's mutterings is still alive. What was it again, Talos? Not only does Hiragi seem to have a reason to visit him, even Talos wanted to bring her to him. But to abduct her...no no, just come and see her yourself man.

Hm, but is that really the case? Talking about Talos, wouldn't it be impossible for the emperor to go himself?

Even so, I think there are almost no good reasons for abducting Hiragi and sent to the Capitol of the Empire, which practices demon exclusion. Oh, he sent a magic librarian because it needed to be secret?

I do not know how many magical librarians are in the capitol right now.

In the end it is necessary...I think it will be necessary to absorb the pearl.

I don't want the pain. No way.

That guy Desiree consumed a pearl piece and for some reason was fine. Even if you are a man of magical librarian class, it's crazy to take in a pearl piece. Thinking about such a thing, it will cause an imbalance of power in the Empire.

Even now, comparing the forces of the Empire with the other three countries

is foolish.

If four people from the top of the magic librarians form a party and confront the demon castle, it may be possible for them to break through, although three of the four might die.

The problem is the Demon King, and the two beside him, of the Four Heavenly Lords.

Even through the graphics of the game, it was awesome. The demon who sat on a dark throne, and the two guys “Imperator” and “Wheel” standing on both sides. (TL: *Imperator refers to a victorious commander under an Emperor, and could also be translated as Mentor*) Those three people that included the Demon King were absolute monsters, and the other two came out just as the four party members cried out “We only have the Demon King left!” after defeating the Four Heavenly Lords.

I remember fondly how we were annihilated twice. (TL: *gotta grind those levels bro*)

The Grimoire Lancer series was very popular, and even a trading card game was produced, but the characters belonged to these divisions.

Demon King’s Army, Empire, Federation, and Other.

Basically the world is mainly made up of the first three. The Federation is the name that collectively includes four nations; The Professor country, the Principality, the Kingdom, and the Republic (only in appearance).

The “Town of Demons” and the “Multi-phased” (異相) make up the characters that are put together in the Other division. Basically they aren’t tangled up in the main story, so they are in their own grouping.

Well, other than that there were only the three divisions. The Empire as well as the Demon King’s Army had the strength to challenge the world by themselves. (TL: *while the Federation needed to combine to compete*)

Unlike the Demon King’s castle which cannot even be infiltrated without the seven keys, the Empire, however, must prepare for invasion from other countries. So it had overwhelming strength against everyone except against the Demon King’s Army.

Oh, by the way Hiragi and I were not even made into cards. After all we are only mid-bosses, though [Mad Wizard] Gaius was a Demon King's Army card.

Um except isn't there a problem with that story?

That's right, it is because of that \$*&%# idiot Desiree.

Even though the current situation is of balanced power, his existence may disturb it.

"Unless he is killed, it's going to be a huge pain that disrupts the balance..."
(Shuten)

I think that affiliating with the Demon King's Army is impossible, but I feel awkward at the fact that my class changed so much with just one bead. (魔王軍所属はありかなーとは思ったが、珠片一個時の俺クラスがうじゃうじゃ居るっただけで気が滅入る) I will fall if challenged by a group, but because of their battle ethics they seem to be battling like a normal person so far. (TL: *meaning, probably, that not only do they fight one-on-one but that they don't pull out their special skills until necessary*) I did not mean to shoulder such power, though both sides may end up talking about me.

Between the Demon King's Army, the Imperial Academy, the Adventurers Association of the Brave, and the Crusaders (TL: *pretty sure this is referring to the Kingdom's knights*), among others, Grimoire Lancer is a series with many intervening forces.

I also thought that it might be bad to belong to something, as none of these groups seem to suit me.

Because more than anything else, it is the most fun to continue to travel.

For that, let's quickly retrieve my companion!

Looking at the thick branches step by step of the trees, I leap. In this way, you can jump farther by putting more force on your legs when landing on trees. In order not make a mistake and hit a tree, it is important to choose a high enough target within sight.

Even in the forest, with the small amount of light provided by the stars combined with a demon's night vision there is nothing I cannot see.

I had already gotten used to this method of movement which was difficult at the beginning.

It is much quicker to jump and leap rather than just running on the road.

“Excuse me~” (Human girl)

Jump, Jump, Jump

“Umm, could I could trouble you with some questions?” (Human girl)

If I push myself a little longer, I should be able to rest before arriving at the capitol.

“Do you think you could answer?” (Human girl)

It is not good to jump around so much with my back burdened by the Demon Slayer over my right shoulder.

“Oh, for my introduction there is this thing.” (Human girl)

Ah yes, yes a business card.

Hmm?

“There is a human traveling at the same speed as mee!?” (Shuten)

“Oh, you didn’t notice? Excuse me.” (Human girl)

ottto (sfx for losing balance) Woah.

In spite of what I just said, I almost collided my face into a tree trunk. And what was this?

I looked at the business card I was suddenly given. As expected it did not have something so high-tech as a face photograph that could be found in my previous life.

『Demon King’s Army Commander – Veloce Vie Atmosphere』

“Huh!?” (Shuten)

I looked straight at the girl in front of me.

Her appearance was that of an unforgettable blonde twin-drill. She wore a Gothic Lolita dress with a mini skirt, a ruffled umbrella probably not big enough to protect her from the rain, and tall high heel boots.

About 15 years old, she was a few years younger than me?

There was no doubt she was that number 3 of the Demon King Army.

“Can you please answer a little questionnaire? We have been interviewing the fiercest people in the world~” (Veloce)

“Why is a demon leader of the Demon King’s Army casually in the Empire!?” (Shuten)

“No, I’m a human being~. I am currently being chased by the 4th and 6th Seats, but I’m about to lose them anyway. Above all I wanted to meet you.” (Veloce)

We continue forward while talking.

She has continued freely speaking with me, but I do not slow down the pace. I am not as confident in my speed, but I am not too balanced.

“Me?” (Shuten)

“That’s right~. Callously beating up that Gaius and then escaping at an impossible speed...but for today I came to scout for the Demon King’s Army~” (Veloce)

“Scouting for the Demon King’s Army!?” (Shuten)

Since she appeared, a feather pen and scroll – that came from who knows where – was scribbling words without any tension.

“Yeah, our forces are a bit limited right now. After all, the hope is that demons that have been mistreated will come. Ah, right now a spot among the Four Heavenly Lords has emptied, so that option should also be taken into consideration. The monthly pay is 2 million gold. (TL: *gold might also be something like ‘garde’* ガルド) (Veloce)

“There was something like a salary in the Demon Army!?” (Shuten)

“That’s right~. Recently there has not been enough land to give to his subordinates, so the Demon King has been making money by selling parts of his own possessions.” (Veloce)

“It’s tougher than I thought!! This Demon Army is tough!!” (思った以上に世知

辛い！！ 世知辛いよ魔王軍！！) (Shuten)

“Well, mostly since these are things treasured in other countries, they sell for a high price. We are fine for now, but I wonder if we can continue to do so.”
(Veloce)

I didn't want to hear the background of the Demon King's Army.

The gentleman behind the one sitting in the throne, with his head in his hands worrying about the labor costs for his subordinates...I didn't want to hear about it. Geez, I didn't want to know.

“What do you call yourself?” (Veloce)

“What a smooth transition back into the interview! I am the Oni Shuten. My favorite food is rare grilled liver.” (Shuten)

“Well, I like people who are highly adaptable~. So, what do you think of the world today?” (Veloce)

“It's super fun.” (Shuten)

“Ho~ isn't that surprising?” (Veloce)

Every time I answer a question from Veloce, the feather pen in the air will scribble something elegantly on the scroll. Meanwhile I never slowed down the pace towards the Empire, but it seems to have no effect on her.

Nah, well since there is no hindrance to movement, answering her questions is no trouble.

“How are you going to live from here on?” (Veloce)

“I am going to continue my wanderings, though right now I'm charging to the Imperial Academy because my companion has been captured.” (Shuten)

“How cool~. That aggressiveness isn't something I have. Ah, well since only Seats 3, 5, 8 and 10 of the magic librarians are home now, how would you fare against all except for number 3?” (Veloce)

“No doubt I will die if they are all together.” (Shuten)

“Is that so...Then, what is your impression of the Demon King's Army?”
(Veloce)

“Gaius is the only one I will not forgive.” (Shuten)

“You are already breaking apart...” (もうおっちゃんじゃありませんかー) (Veloce)

Veloce looks shocked.

However, the Demon King’s Army aside, I cannot forgive Gaius. No matter how many times I killed him, I’d probably kill him again. (あいつは何回殺しても殺したりんよ) Yup.

No well, I do not want my face to end up looking like hers right now.

“Okay, so you do not have a good impression of the Demon King’s Armies?” (Veloce)

“Wellll, that is...are the circumstances as rough as Miss Veloce said?” (Shuten)

“I promised not to talk about such a thing, but depending on my impressions and how the scouting is going we’ll see...okay next question. Is there anyone you would want to protect even at the expense of your own life?” (Shuten)

“Hmm, that’s a bit difficult to answer since if possible I do not want to die. There’s a person I want to continue to protect so even if I die for them then they would die soon after.” (Shuten)

“Oh so it’s your kindred. Then, next. For something like a friend or a mission, even one’s own life, how much could be sacrificed for ‘responsibility?’” (Veloce)

“That’s an interesting question.” (Shuten)

“That’s because it is the Demon King’s military aptitude questionnaire. Oh, but of course I made it.” (Veloce)

Tucking away the business card of Veloce into my bosom, I nearly lost my balance from the movement of my arms.

I will soon exit the forest. Imperial Capitol Gransil is close. So, what is this?

“Responsibility?” (Shuten)

“Isn’t there a variety of things~? A job you have undertaken, an important companion, or even for yourself there must be some responsibility with which you are intertwined. In exchange, how much would you be willing to sacrifice yourself or others for it?” (Veloce)

“...I hadn’t ever thought of such things.” (Shuten)

“Wow~ you are someone who seems extremely selfish. Thank you.” (Veloce)

The scroll was swiftly filled in. The eyes of the person looking over at me are painful. But, you know, everyone is trying to live without permission. Hey do even you have a responsibility that would cause you to suffer?

...Is it because of the responsibility that I am going to help Hiragi now?

...Is it because of the responsibility that I am trying to collect the pearl pieces?

...Is it because of the responsibility that I think it would be bad if the Empire were to collect the Pearl Pieces?

It is different from that.

Everything I did was by my own choice.

“Well, then I will change the question. How much would you sacrifice for your own responsibilities?” (Veloce)

“What, are you trying to measure me?” (Shuten)

“That’s right. I do not know what qualities you can provide to subordinates, how much they might trust you~, or how you will treat those who watch your back?” (Veloce)

“...I see, sacrifice?” (Shuten)

“Of course, even if you sacrifice something other than yourself it is okay. One person might burn a town for their responsibility, while on the other end, there are guys who think of their own limbs~” (Veloce)

Responsibility, sacrifice, hey.

Is that the only reason I can’t leave the kidnapped Hiragi alone, who might be in serious danger of injury, in other words, is this a feeling responsibility?

So, is it because of a sense of responsibility I am chasing Hiragi?

I feel like it is something different.

Veloce was quiet for a moment.

“Hey, how long will it take you tell me what you would sacrifice for the

comrade you are picking up now? You really don't have to think that hard."
(Veloce)

"...Indeed, I was lost in my thoughts for a bit." (Shuten)

While thinking about something unrelated to the number 3 of the Demon King's Army, I was reminded of the existence of the small stone held in my hand.

It must be hard to be partnered with that foolish man Desiree.

I do not want to suffer from severe pain, but I do not know if I can easily recover Hiragi from the Imperial Academy, where I am heading right now.

No, I think I can get in without having to take in another pearl piece?

I originally intended to do incorporate them. 'I can quickly recover them~!' Well, I was going to.

But it hurts, I hate it.

But the more I thought about my current situation I come to realize it was more serious than I had thought and in order not to be defeated I would need to consider integrating another pearl piece. I am optimistic, so I usually try not to think about such things.

It is best not to over-think things. It is best to live without worries and joke around freely. That is the most enjoyable life. (TL: *can't say I agree with that opinion*)

But well...It is certain that I feel the difference in the force I am holding, with Veloce in front of me.

"Sacrifice, huh?" (Veloce)

"Sacrifice is sacrifice. Sacrifice is necessary when responsibility arises."
(Veloce)

"...well, that's true." (Shuten)

"Oh, can you tell me your thoughts?" (Veloce)

"It seems I have not thought about it until now...yeah. As long as it is not enough pain to kill me...let's take it in...one more time." (Shuten)

“Ooh!...I didn’t think that was your opinion~.” (Veloce)

“I’m sorry, but this one time I’ll allow it! As for next time...I’ll think about it then!!” (Shuten)

“Oh, that sounds great~! You are the kind of guy who takes things step by step! I see, I see~!!” (Veloce)

Veloce’s pen danced. She was just smiling happily.

Ah, my words must have been strange and amusing

As I felt a surging wave of regret for saying such things, Veloce zoomed closer, bringing her face in front of mine.

“I like it! Interesting! Shuten is funny! I want to immediately pick you up and make you one of the Four Heavenly Lords~! But it seems like now is not the time to get overenthusiastic. So I will come again. Right now we’re going to have a party at the Professor’s, but after I will come and talk to you~!” (Veloce)

“Wait a sec! Wha!?” (Shuten)

“See you ~~” (Veloce)

She quickly took her distance from me, then she was wrapped in a flock of bats where she quickly disappeared.

It was almost like a storm. It was an interview.

...A party at the Professor’s?

Oh, it already about that time when the Devil’s army reaches the Professor Country...Eh, then it’s about the time the heroes have almost reached the Empire?

Was she serious? Is it already such an era?

“.....” (Shuten)

There was a strong light in front of me.

That is probably a sign that the forest is ending.

Jumping up to the top of the forest canopy, I grab the thick trunk and gaze down.

“...I’ve arrived, Capitol.” (Shuten)

A giant city surrounded by an iron wall like some kind of steel city, for which it is named. (TL: *Oh! So basically the city is similar to a “grand sill” as in the geological “sill” which is a rocky ridge/cliff face of sorts, rather than a “windowsill.”*) Although it is hard to tell from here, the buildings would mostly be wrapped in the dull color of iron, while the cityscape should be illuminated by the soft light of gas lamps.

Just a little north of the city center, there is the palace and the Imperial Academy.

...Hiragi is also there?

I wanted to sight-see a little, but I can’t afford that kind of thing.

In the first place I don’t know what to do about Hiragi

I want to help her, but I cannot lie to myself.

There is my conscience that thinks it is wrong to think this way, but more important than that.

—

[“This is bad. I didn’t think you would be so easily depressed.”]

“Stop comparing me to a beast!!

“Ugugugugigi.”

“Shouldn’t you honor me who is older!?”

“Do you care about propriety!? Do you feel like honoring me who is older!?”]

— (TL: *flashbacks to phrases Hiragi says in earlier chapters, though I feel like the first one is Shuten?*)

...Huh.

Well, I don’t think there’s even room for such thoughts...

Yet somehow I was thinking so much about her.

A traveling companion. And somehow I become a benefactor who saved her life, though I don’t really feel that way.

“...Time to go.”

I muttered so as I looked at the blackened pearl piece with my usual dumbfounded expression.

Chapter 10: Imperial Capitol Gransil II [Tourist Etiquette is Different between Individuals]

(Hiragi POV)

When I woke up, the first thing I noticed was that my magical powers had been subtly drained.

I was filled with a bad feeling of nausea. My vision was hazy and my thoughts had disappeared while I was unconscious.

“...w-where is this?” (Hiragi)

Cold.

On my skin was the sense of something cold and hard. It seemed I was lying on a floor. No, that’s not all. It seems I regained my consciousness due to some sort of stimulus.

I quickly noticed that my bangs were stuck to my face, like I had been splashed with water or something.

[Hehehehe...It’s been awhile Hiragi.] (Marshall)

“...Talos V...?” (Hiragi)

Unpleasantly energetic, it was a familiar voice.

Since I had been stunned and was still regaining consciousness, I could not yet look around for the origin of the voice as my eyes were barely starting to open.

From what I could see, I was in the center of a magic circle engraved on the ground. There were a few people nearby who seemed vaguely familiar. When I thought that I had seen them somewhere I realized that the one standing closest to me was called Benetta, the Eight Seat magic librarian.

That reminds me.

Why was I in such a place? What happened before that? I searched through my memories as I tried to stand up, my arms pushing downward for support.

“Ga!...?” (Hiragi)

“Tch...” (Benetta)

My arm was kicked out from under me and I again fell to the ground.

If I thought about it, of course Benetta was looking down at me with cold eyes.

I knew that her hate was aimed at me as she had not been hiding her murderous intent, which had been expressed in her frustration. However, even if I had been killed a second ago, I had no thoughts that I would be able to compete in this terrible situation.

“What...is happening...?” (Hiragi)

[I just wanted to talk with you after a hundred years.]

“I had refused, but...?” (Hiragi)

[As usual, this broken person is polite. Do it Bennetta.]

“Ga!?” (Hiragi)

Where was the origin of the voice? I could not understand it. The back of my head was stomped on by someone’s heel. A rough pain echoed in my forehead as it hit the ground.

[Your magical power was drained out as much as possible. Was your power considerably weakened compared to a hundred years ago? You have lost, as during all this time I kept at it and built a powerful organization. That, is the difference between you and me...!]

“Ga, ha...!” (Hiragi)

The ruthless heel continued to grind me down. I could hardly reply to Talos. I did not know what kind of woman Benetta was that she would act like this, but as for Talos I could not forgive him for putting me in this ridiculous situation where I was helpless.

“So...You know that I am weakened...” (Hiragi)

[That is because I ordered to have the weakening technique put upon you. I have always been waiting for this day! Yes, it has been too long...!]

“...!...!” (Hiragi)

Sorry. The voice that I gathered with my whole strength stuck in my throat.

Indeed, this man was from the old days, and with what little power I had I looked up. As this opportunity arose, I perceived that the waves of magical power seemed to be overlooking the room from a place near the ceiling.

[While keeping you to himself, keeping you to himself...I was deceived by Garland. I have never experienced as much humiliation as I did at that time!]

“For such a thing, you...how arbitrary...!” (Hiragi)

[Benetta]

“Ah! Gu...!!” (Hiragi)

A curse of Enchantment lives in this body. Even if that thing caused a problem for him, this was too unreasonable.

The Empire of those days had built a society that oppressed demons, and when a single person had reached out his hand to me, the Emperor had tried to intercept it.

The attachment of Talos II is much more dense and terrible than my own revenge. Even though he felt humiliated enough to become full of resentment, it was not enough to make him yield.

“How should I put it? It is good to keep an insect like this under such a ‘charming’ curse. Were you fascinated by yourself? This thing. So foolish.”
(Benetta)

“What do you understand...!?!” (Hiragi)

“Don’t you two know each other?!” (知らないのはお互いさまで、しよつ)

“Gua...!” (Hiragi)

The toe of her military boot again dug into my back, and the feeling of nausea surged in my stomach as if I were about to vomit. A few tears from a mixture of sorrow and regret squeezed out without thinking, and I desperately bit my lip to catch myself.

Even if I tried to escape, I realized I had lost feeling below my waist, and I couldn’t move my legs at all. There was only numbness rather than pain. (自分

の無様さがもはや辛かった)

[Hey, Hiragi. Thanks to you the Empire was broken and scattered...but it has finally been put back together. You have also become weak. I am preparing choices.]

“Anyway...it has been determined that you are not too dangerous!” (Benetta)
(どうせ.....ろくでもないことに決まってる..... !)

[Such is the case. It is not difficult to see.]

I clenched my teeth and stared at the ceiling. When that man stood in a dominant position he acted arrogant like this.

[Even in the Imperial Capitol, there are quite a few nobles who still keep demons as slaves.

We can also introduce you to your fellows...Aahh. That’s right, this feeling. I wanted to perfectly trample you like this once before for what you have done...!]

“...!...!!” (Hiragi)

His voice was mixed with joy.

However, it was also inflamed with murderous intent. Yet I cannot do anything due my shortage of power. How frustrating to get to this point and for everything to be in vain, is there nothing that can be done? (ここまで悔しいことが、ここまで虚しいことが、ここまでやるせないことが、ほかにあるだろうか)

At that time, making such remarks like trampling people, I tried to understand. (そういう時、どれだけ人を踏みにじるような発言をするのかくらい、分かっているつもりだった)

However, he seemed to have remembered what he wanted to do.

[If you express that all that with Garland was a complete lie and you flatter me, then I will keep you to pour drinks for me. Otherwise die here.]

“...You are...really...!!” (Hiragi)

The reign of Talos II was a time when demons were originally treated like slaves.

That is why this man also treats demons like they are not people in this way.

But saying that, even if that was the case.

Isn't this too terrible?

Is it that he became tired of just tearing the hearts of people, and the more he thought about it the more he wanted to shatter people and crush their dignity into the ground? Is it possible for someone to be so cruel to people? (人の心を引き裂くだけでは飽きたらず、一縷の思いをも粉々に粉碎して尊厳を地にたたき落とすほど、人は人にこうも惨く当たれるものだろうか)

[It has already been around a hundred years since then. I was thinking of releasing you from the rock. I never thought that something would break you out...well, what will you do Hiragi? If you choose death, then I'm sorry, but can Benetta kill you here?]

The year where I fell in love with another.

That was not only a time with enjoyable feelings.

There was also the disturbance of the Emperor, whom Garland desperately trying to protect me from. So, it can be said that it was not a restful time for either of us.

But even so.

Those feelings were not cheap enough to deny as just lies.

"I do not know why the Marshal is hesitating over such a demon, but I will kill it." (Benetta)

No matter how much me and my precious person are brought up, at this stage I cannot do anything as I am now. It is extremely frustrating, and among my many feelings I want to break the neck of the owner of the voice, while my thoughts extended outward towards those who couldn't help me.

I'm far too helpless.

[Benetta]

"Do not answer quickly, demon!" (Benetta) (さっさと答えを出しなよ、魔族！)

"Gua...!" (Hiragi)

She stomped on the back of my head and pressed me down again on my ear. The rough pain also wore on my spirit.

Somebody help.

It is in the weakness of my mind that I think like that. However, it is unavoidable as I am dependent on an external force. But that is not any reason for anyone to help me.

Until yesterday, all those happy memories seemed like a lie, just me enjoying my own fantasy, so much so that the miseries of today seemed more realistic.

A hundred years ago as a demon I was treated as a slave. When I remember it, I realize how pathetic an existence I still am.

I wanted to cry. However, if I did it would truly break my heart. I do not want to lose to Talos, even if I am killed. I may not be able to fight, but I do not want to lose in my heart.

So...

Reminiscing on my memory of a hundred years ago, it is strange.

I am worthlessly helpless, but there is still one young man who is reliable. An encouraging kindred who created no distance between us, where there was no loneliness.

“Please help me...” (Hiragi)

“Uwa, is there someone foolish enough to come to the Imperial Academy to save you?” (Benetta)

[She seems to still have a strange hope. Benetta, do it.]

That joking grin. A rude, irresponsible, absurd, cool, and strong man who played around, a truly strange guy. But it was still a pleasure spending time together, with him as kindred.

“Please help me...Shuten...!!” (Hiragi)

Tears ran down my cheeks.

“Yo~! I just came to look around!!” (Shuten) (TL: *or as a tourist*)

(General third person POV)

“Eh...!!?” (Benetta)

“You, where did you come from!?” (Grendel)

[...A demon. Demon ...? Who are you...!]

The double-doors were broken in with a great crushing sound.

In a panic Benetta looked back and what entered her sight was a silhouette in the entry with a large axe over its back.

However, even more noteworthy was the dense magical power she felt from it.

“This place is supposedly the Imperial Academy, but it’s unexpectedly lacking in security. Am I just thinking about it too much and the magic librarians are just overly strong?” (Shuten)

[Who are you!?]

The voice of Talos V could not completely hide his distress. Seemingly not knowing where the voice was coming from, the silhouette looked around inside the room. Not finding the source, it instead pointed towards something else within its sight.

“The collector of That.” (Shuten)

Speaking of the person being pointed at, she was currently in a blank state.

They were kindred, but had only spent a few days together.

She hadn’t seriously thought that he would come and help her in such a dangerous place. She had only slightly been expecting him.

Since it was the only desire in her heart, she kept telling herself this must be an illusion.

...It just couldn’t be true. If he had truly come, she would wonder if his playfulness overcame his common sense of sense of danger.

But, even thinking so. Hiragi’s spirit was not in decent enough shape to take in the current situation.

She wondered if she was dreaming again. She wondered if her mind had gone insane with happy memories, and such feelings had overflowed from her

thoughts.

“Hah, this person is calling out that...!” (ひ、人のことをもの呼ばわりして..... ! TL: *mostly had to translate this according to context*)

“For someone who can be kidnapped to such a place, calling them a thing is enough when I bothered to come pick them up. Come on, rejoice.” (Shuten)

Ah, this guy is just like normal.

A joking answer that can immediately be understood. At the same time she felt worn out, from his words she felt safe for some reason.

“So relaxed...such a playful guy...” (Hiragi)

In spite of her voice coming out in a sigh, Hiragi understood that it was because of relief and not just amazement.

“Why are you in such bad shape that your mind and body are exhausted...is it caused by this guy?” (Shuten)

“Eeek...!!” (Benetta)

Meanwhile.

Benetta had been chilled to the bone at the appearance of this mysterious monster. What on earth was this? Even hearing the report told by Grendel, such a monster shouldn't exist. At most it should have just been reported the demon was balanced with Grendel.

But as it was now.

The intense amount of magical power that she felt created an overwhelming pressure as if she had made the leader angry. (TL: *probably one of the higher up magic librarians*)

Even though she understood how much could be done, (いくらなんでもそこまではいかないとは分かっていても) Not only is the Oni before her eyes seemingly as angry as the leader, it was also exuding a bloodthirsty aura.

A true monster. Such a thing is nothing but a nightmare raiding the Imperial Academy.

“Aaahh...!”

“Assaulting someone’s kindred, this guy has exposed his face.” (Shuten)

[Kindred...? Hey, has my property come into some kind of family!?]

“Your property?” (Shuten)

‘Who belongs to Talos V?’ thought Hiragi.

After watching Hiragi, Shuten seemed to have realized the source of the voice and looked up at the ceiling.

“Oh I see, Talos-san? Well, that’s rather impolite...” (Shuten)

[That’s right, you have made the mistake of disturbing the god Talos V the 18th Emperor, when I have been waiting for this time for 100 years... unforgivable!]

“A hundred years ago huh, well I guess my hundred steps are not quite as long then.” (Shuten)

Scratching the back of his head, Shuten looked up at the ceiling and laughed.

“Either way, she’s mine now.” (Shuten)

“No way...!”

[This guy...!!!]

“Talos-san is bad. I don’t want my only traveling companion to be taken away to such a place. For that reason I also endured some severe pain. I can’t go without her.” (Shuten)

A red blush covered Hiragi’s cheeks. But seemingly not noticing it, Shuten slung the Demon Slayer over his shoulder.

Then, one young man jumped in between them within the Guran.

“What is this!? It sounds bad, but...! You are the Oni from that time...!!”
(Grendel)

Grendel Glyph Scale.

The figure of the Oni now in full view, he raised his gloved fists and stared at him. The battle formations now in place, Shuten was surrounded by Benetta and Grendel.

“Shuten...!!” (Hiragi)

What was Hiragi trying to say? Run away, the words caught in her mind for a moment. However, she had been hoping for help, and he had come all the way to come help...with such feelings, she could not put it into words.

Fighting Grendel alone would have been difficult, but now there were two people to fight and Benetta is stronger. There is nothing she could do in this situation.

[Eighth Seat! Tenth Seat! Kill the trespassing demon!"]

“Yes...!” (Benetta)

“...Understood!” (Grendel)

Benetta drew her Ocarina while Grendel raised his fists.

However, Grendel was aware. The fact that the power ratio between himself and the Oni in front of him was different than before, and it was stronger.

As if to support that theory, the Oni laughed.

“Eight Seat, Tenth Seat...” (Shuten)

Looking at the two, he continued.

“I will ask you to hand her over gently.” (Shuten)

A monster that exuded overwhelming magical power, he lifted the corners of his mouth while he raised the Demon Slayer.

Chapter 11: Imperial Capitol Gransil III [Violent Tourist, Imperial Academy]

Just a short time ago Shuten had forcibly entered the Imperial Academy headquarters.

Crane, Rudius, and Haruna had all fallen to the ground. Before entering the Empire, a new weapon had rolled down the Imperial road made of magical steel.

“A strong one...”

“Uugh...”

“Gu...a...”

Why had this happened? Simply because Haruna had spoken irresponsibly. Since the Demon King had resurrected, the relationship between the Three Kingdom’s alliance and the Empire had been quietly changing, and those who come to the Empire will be considered trespassers and invaders.

And it was simply that this other party was under such bad conditions.

“Indeed...During this time when we are being invaded by a strong demon, I would be grateful if you did not increase the effort needed.” (Grendel)

“Demon...?”

“Well, because of that things have become quite tiring, so I will overlook this one time, so instead leave the Empire immediately.” (Grendel)

Tapping his gloved hands on his arms, Imperial Book Agency Leader and Imperial Academy Magic Librarian Tenth Seat Grendel Glyph Scale sighed.

Even though his title was as such, he had not been able to advance much.

And although he had left things to Eight Seat Bennetta, he had not yet received a report of that demon. He did not know what was happening there, but these intruders had come for some unknown reason.

“Aah, wait...” (Haruna)

“What?” (Grendel)

The voice calling to Grendel caused him to turn on his heel in slight amazement.

It was from one of the three people, the female priest with light hair.

Each of them had the potential to shine if they were polished. If they were a human in the Imperial Academy, he would definitely like to do something.

Unfortunately they are all people from other countries. The fact that they are in such a place should not be allowed.

“Have you seen...a girl with orange hair...?” (Haruna)

“Hey, Haruna...!”

But!” (Haruna)

A girl with orange hair?

He looked through his memories, but not finding anything in his search Grendel shook his head.

“No. I don’t know what your circumstances are, but even it isn’t me if the other security guards find you...so quickly leave the Imperial capitol.” (Grendel)

“...” (Haruna)

Haruna furrowed her brows, unconvinced by Grendel’s answer.

But that doesn’t matter.

The three had tried to fight the single man in front of them and were inevitably defeated. Before his skill of manipulating the three spheres, it was not possible to get in even a single hit without being knocked face-first into the ground.

It would be useless to say anything else.

“Well then, I hope that if I see you again it is as an ally, because I don’t want to hurt you.” (Grendel)

His black coat flapped. On his back the engraved symbol X showed his rank.

“...Imperial...Magic librarian, eek...”

It was early in the morning, with no traffic. In this moment it was a scene of peace, though the three people had been caught by a magic librarian and their clothes were in a ragged state, they were lying there in a relaxed manner.

It was pure coincidence that they encountered Grendel.

To put it another way, it turned out like this because Haruna was foolish and honestly said she was a Guild adventurer while walking around with weapons drawn.

“...I wanted to win.” (Rudius)

The reason they were not instantly killed was because of Rudius who had recently been training hard. But there was nothing they could do against the many-sided attack from multiple spheres, and so fell down again and again.

And that was the Tenth Seat. It can be said that he was the weakest magic librarian. Regrettably, there was a clear difference in skill.

“I cannot find Justa, and now a magic librarian has been drawn in...what should I do?” (Haruna)

“But if she is not in the Imperial capitol, the places where she could be are limited. She may have headed west, towards the port of Gelberic.” (Rudius)

“Do you want to go to Gelberic? Maybe she went through the port to...the Professor country?” (Crane)

“Maybe...” (Haruna)

The three people collapsed on the ground were still without energy, yet in the morning glow they found themselves contemplating deeply.

Currently the three people were chasing a flower girl they met in the streets of Komamoi City. She had a strong grudge against the Empire and participated in a dangerous business even though she seemed younger than Haruna. This was revealed in Komamoi City by the flower girl herself during her escape, as she told them she was heading to the Empire for a mission of relief for the Republic. (それが花の街で露見し、逃走中に彼女は自らの使命を共和国の救済だと言って帝国に向かってしまったのだった。TL: *it seems to me she is mad about the dissolving of the Republic into the Empire, and is a freedom-fighter of some*

sort?)

They didn't know why she would go to the Professor Country, but the only place beyond the Imperial capitol she was likely to go was the Gelberic harbor.

"It can't be helped...Even if we were to enter the Imperial capitol with caution now, the danger will only increase. Let's go to the port of Gelberic." (Crane)

"Yeah..." (Haruna)

Haruna, whose fatigue had reached the limit, nodded in favor of Crane's suggestion, which was kind of giving up. It was at that time.

Suddenly, rocks blew out with a noisy explosion, and the three people instinctually turned their heads toward the source of the sound. Then, they could see the one side of the building was spewing smoke. Wasn't that building the key point of the Imperial capitol, the Imperial Academy?

"What was that?"

"Ah, the guy from before...!" (Haruna)

The current noise seemed to be the sound of the roof of the building collapsing. He didn't know if it was correct to call it an explosion. There was a woman some years older than the three party members framed by it.

She was dressed in the same black coat as Grendel from earlier wore, but the one who noticed an extra detail about her was Rudius who had good eyes.

The number engraved on the back was VIII. In other words, it was a person of higher rank than the person who had beat them to a pulp.

Another person came into Haruna's sight. It was Grendel. He jumped into the sky with vigor and immediately entered a state of war, summoning his three spheres.

"...Internal conflict?" (Haruna)

"Eighth Seat versus Tenth Seat?" (Rudius)

The question that leaked out of Haruna's mouth was confirmed by Rudius. However, the words of the two were denied by Crane.

"It's different...! It's a battle...!?" (Crane)

“Huh?”

“So, someone is facing two magic librarians...?”

Crane, the most sensitive among the three, noticed its identity first. The existence that has not yet appeared out of the smoke.

“...It’s that one.” (Crane)

They understood without him saying more. At that point its figure was seen, with the two black horns and the shape of a huge axe.

The “power” from that day.

“Its fighting the magic librarians...!?” (Haruna)

Haruna spoke first. The Eighth Seat moved with an appearance of desperation.

An Ocarina? At the same time she blew into it vigorously, sound waves resonated out, rippling with heat. Even at this distance Haruna had to block her ears because of the unbearable pain in her head.

However, it seemed like it was nothing but a breeze for Grendel and the demon.

Then, the sound waves spread to their limit and changed into a light prison in the blink of an eye.

— Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill [Capital Letter Blazing Prison Color] —

The sonic waves abruptly condensed and turned into flames, directing an attack against the Oni.

“Ah...!”

It was an event where she opened her eyes wide in order to see what was happening.

It has created the illusion that he was wrapped in a cocoon of fire, but the demon dispersed it with one swing. A blow from the big axe attacked the Eighth Seat who jumped back and stiffened in astonishment.

As Grendel tried to prevent the attack by blocking it with the white sphere, it quickly exploded in the next moment.

“The moment it absorbed the energy...!”

Grendel’s technique absorbed and invalidated all energy, yet the demon shattered it with force alone. The Oni leapt back with the momentum, landing on the hole in the wall of the Imperial Academy.

Once Grendel landed on another building he grabbed a deep breath, and took a stance.

–Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill [Great Three Elements] –

The white energy enveloped the body of Grendel, while green particles diffused around him. In addition, the red energy wrapped around his fist, and he poised himself in preparation.

“A second form...?” (Crane)

“No, it’s the Divine Phenomenon Phase Skill of a magic librarian...!” (Haruna)

“To think this guy was still keeping such a secret...” (Crane)

Even though the three people were working together, they were knocked down by Grendel’s sphere combo. He was strong. Besides that, he was still the Tenth Seat.

The opponent that the three of them together couldn’t reach was not even at full power. Crane gulped nervously at the situation.

Meanwhile.

Taking his stance, Grendel readied his fist and jumped. It was like dancing with the demon. Green particles accelerated their speed, holding down the demon as the red exploded against it–

An earthen noise rang out loudly.

–The large axe that the Oni was reflexively thrown downward from about the height of four stories and quickly hit the ground.

“...!!”

With a tremendous noise, cracks ran down the Empire’s magical steel road.

The Oni did not move from the hole in the wall of the Imperial Academy, only his eyes moving to gaze downward.

“...Magic librarians...against two of them...”

Though distant, it was a strong aura.

Aside from that, they realized Rudio was missing.

The strong influence his burning passion will cause later, is another tale.

Hello, everyone. This is Shuten who has reached this place in a day's time in such a way.

When I arrived at the capitol, I absorbed a pearl piece. Let's go over the iron wall of the capitol. No, let's go to the Imperial Academy. Since I was entering the Imperial Academy, it was necessary to absorb it.

This time also hurts. No, it's actually pretty funny to have to tolerate pain on enemy ground.

I figured I shouldn't absorb it in public, so I entered the bathroom, but it seems the Imperial Academy separates the men and women's toilets!

What I'm trying to say, is that I made a mistake and entered the girl's bathroom.

It was truly a nice bathroom, though I was relieved the place was western styled.

Anyway, with mental concentration, *Namu!* (なむさん)

It seemed like there was some resistance when I thrust the pearl piece into my chest, but it was not that fleeing feeling like before. I wonder why?

Well, in any case, it really hurts.

Even after obtaining the two pearl pieces, I knew the horror of the attack the soul, which means it's difficult to build up tolerance for and hard to endure. The pain is not any different from when I got the pain for the first time.

Please hold back.

So isn't a tragedy, when I was already in pain and knocking against the utilities while rolling around, that I heard the high-pitched voice of a little girl entering?

That was when I realized it was the girl's bathroom. (TL: *oh goodness, Shuten. You really should think at least some things through*)

Even though I'm in pain, and it's not strange to be sweating, I'm strangely getting cold sweat.

I thought I was doing things cautiously, but thinking about it calmly, aren't the girls in such a place eventually going to be human beings from the Imperial Academy?

They are enemies. (TL: *I feel like a 'whoops' would fit here, haha*)

As soon as the pain subsided slightly I had no choice...I had to leave even just moving my body caused pain. Once I opened the door my consciousness swayed a little bit, where a group of women members stood there in shock.

I'm not doing anything indecent, alright?

The girl who entered the bathroom screamed at my presence before running away.

Humans of the Imperial Academy began insanely attacking me, but if I continue through, they are soon gone.

But in any case the speed of her getaway was remarkable.

The nine-tails said she was thousands of years old, but if I get another pearl piece I'm giving it to her. Because it hurts? It's not strange. It's like the pain of your nails being pulled out, but filling the inside of your entire body. Okay.

Well, if I go to where Hiragi was, there were some choices.

Yeah, I was a tad late. The responsibility is purely because of Veloce's way of speaking.

Anyway, I jumped in carelessly, listening to the voice of someone who seemed to be Talos. It belongs to me! I declared this because she is my kindred, but the interpretation was probably misunderstood. While thinking about this, I broke through the Eighth Seat's Divine Phenomenon attack and broke down the walls. Then I beat Grendel down to the ground.

"What a...monster...!!" (Benetta)

"Today seems to have gone pretty well. I mean, I can again understand the strength of Desiree." (Shuten)

“Desiree...!?” (Benetta)

The eyes of the Eighth Seat with her ocarina became round.

Well, the Fifth Seat and myself knew about this.

“Unforgivable...demons!!” (Benetta)

“Nah, I dunno about that. But, come on, being this way towards demons. Stop it or else something bad will happen.” (Shuten)

The Eighth Seat attacked with her Ocarina. I was not afraid since I had already fought Desiree. Shaking it off with my big axe, it’s like a breeze.

Her facial expression distorted in frustration as she murmured about her flames. I jumped forward in that gap.

“!?! It disappeared!?” (Benetta)

“Well, you’ll be able to respond in a moment.” (Shuten)

Swinging the large axe from my back.

“Ayaaaaaaaaa!!” (Benetta)

“Uotto” (Shuten *losing his balance*)

A rushing blow.

Since my muscular strength has also increased considerably, the slash attack entered deeply.

Seeing her fall to the ground without strength, I went back to the Imperial Academy. Since my target is not to subdue a magic librarian.

But it was surprisingly funny. I had absorbed a pearl piece, but in the end it was a scuffle. Next time we meet I will kill that %&#;% Desiree.

I lightly returned to the large hall. It is creepy to have a magic circle in the middle, but it is certainly a machine of sorts for Taloz V to have a voice. Though I don’t know for sure.

Oh, are you still alive?” (Shuten)

“...I am trying to stay alive, aren’t I...” (Hiragi)

“That’s true.” (Shuten)

I pick up Hiragi who was lying on the ground. Carrying the Demon Slayer, she looks like she was crying until just barely...I am sorry.

“Do you no longer need to come to the capitol?” (Shuten)

“Yeah...” (Hiragi)

“Do you want to leave?”

“Yeah...” (Hiragi)

“Do you want to travel again?” (Shuten)

“...Yeah.” (Hiragi)

Pressing against me, Hiragi continued to rub her eyes. I guess she was scared. I also thought that it was serious until just a little bit ago, but surely it is better not to say that now. Surely.

I’m glad to be alive. Frankly I do not know how it was so easy to save Hiragi who was in peril...Veloce-san, thank you for the questionnaire. It was because of that I had the courage to take in another pearl.

[Do you think you can escape so easily?]

“What?” (Shuten)

[Do you think those who insult me can escape so easily!?!]

“Hmm?” (Shuten)

At the same time a grotesque voice became a crescendo, red light flashed in the grooves of the magic circle.

[Hahahah!! With this you cannot run away! Bound by this special barrier, the enormous

“I’m tired.” (Shuten)

[How can you talk so calmly!? How can you leave so quickly!?]

I’d say something, but there is no point.

It is a paralysis and damage type trap that creates an electric shock in the area and makes the opponent unable to move.

“...Um, Shuten?” (Hiragi)

With a somewhat weak expression, Hiragi seemed to be question me as I walked normally as she tilted her head at me...well, whatever.

“Hiragi, did you want to say something to that old man?” (Shuten)

“Um...hmm” (Hiragi)

Talos was shouting how ‘it was stupid for me and Hiragi to hold a quiet conversation! Don’t be foolish!’

Do you even know how to finish someone off...it would have been better to ask Yatano. No, is that even right? If she was told to finish off something by the Marshall, then Yatano-chan would probably have to come and kill it, even if she didn’t want to. Though it varies between magic librarians.

Hiragi looked up at something on the ceiling. That’s probably the center of the magic. A place where Talos-san is watching from.

“Even after another hundred years from now I will not be yours! Never!”
(Hiragi)

While shedding tears, she cried out with a hopeful smile. Well then, shall we escape now?

[Don’t be stupid!! You are mine...! Mine...!]

“Well, with that in mind.” (Shuten)

[Why can you move!! This is stupid!! Beloveeed!!]

“Oh...that’s because these shoes are specially made.” (Shuten)

Lightly bowing, I held Hiragi and leaped out of the Imperial Academy.

Chapter 12: City of Water Mermila VI [Song of Feelings Dedicated to the Grave]

“...When I lived in the Empire it was a society which oppressed demons. And though there is a great variety of human beings, demons and their magic are seen only as tools. Humans reigned as the ruling class, while demons were treated as slaves.” (Hiragi)

Hiragi muttered while placing a bunch of small white flowers to the grave at Mermila on the way back from the capitol.

It was the evening after escaping and we had returned to the village of Rene. At the request of Hiragi, we again visited Mermila after waiting for nightfall.

Although I peeked into the ruins of the research institute at that time, the figure of Desiree was nonexistent. That guy must have left.

However, what are you saying?

Rather than searching for a bloodthirsty, shouldn't I have stayed with Hiragi who seemed slightly wilted? What are you saying?

I heard that she had wanted to visit Mermila in order to visit this grave. Because I didn't need to go anywhere, I decided to wait and watch from behind as she visited the grave.

The moon is shining on this beautiful night. It's a half moon.

“...I hadn't heard about the treatment of demons.” (Shuten)

“The Imperial Academy only compiles a history convenient to the Empire, as Shuten had said.” (Hiragi)

“Well, that's true.” (Shuten)

I was a little surprised to hear of the Imperial Academy's history in such a place, but I guess we can deal with it. Although the Marshall is like That...I had heard the First Seat controlled the Academy, but is it that the Marshall has no power? Doesn't that mean the former Emperor is useless?

“I am also no exception. Being caught and enslaved, I was saved at that time

by a human being. That was Garland...the General of Time.” (Hiragi) (TL: *like the Hero of Time?* :3) (それが、ガーランド.....時の将軍)

Hiragi said so, looking back briefly.

The splendid tombstone lit by moonlight sat there silently. The scene brought by the tombstone on the hill framed by her silver tails was beautiful and kind of sad.

“It was pretty rough, and I was planning trying to escape if an opportunity arose...But at that time he hit me once. I don’t remember how many times he was blown away by my fox-fire.” (Hiragi)

“That’s an enviable relationship.” (Shuten)

“You’re terrible...It was then, that Talos V started a certain project.” (Hiragi)

“Project?” (Shuten)

“The ‘Primary Imperial Research Project.’ In actuality it was meant to forcibly remove the magical powers of demons. Talos V had these separated from the soul and collected in order to create a magic nucleus...so magic no longer dwelled in the soul. As a result, demons with a strange magic were made just like me.” (Hiragi)

“And then?” (Shuten)

“The other demons almost died, but Garland guarded me...though in the end it was unnecessary as Talos V was enthralled by my Charm magic.” (Hiragi)

“...is that so” (Shuten)

“That’s right, you guessed it. That was the time I was slandered as a courtesan.” (Hiragi)

Her laughter was heavy.

What kind of words should I say to Hiragi’s back?

I cannot choose good enough words. But, I do not like this dark atmosphere, I hate it.

“He must have been a good man. So stick out your chest and report that you are alive now because of him.” (Shuten)

“...Yeah.” (Hiragi)

Hiragi crouched before the grave, placing her hands together quietly.

The enemy probably won't attack any more, but to keep anyone from interfering with Hiragi paying her respects I will silently keep watch for awhile.

The night breeze has cooled down a little.

(Hiragi POV)

Long time no see...How transparent should I be?

Just yesterday I was really here. Though I guess I was on the verge of being taken by Talos. I had just finished complaining in front of your grave before being able to talk in this way. I was trapped in a rock for about a hundred years after being sealed, and I was getting weak from the technique placed upon me...now I am not even half of the strength from when we met.

There is no doubt Talos is involved, but he has made a strange organization. Even if it is Garland, I don't know if they can be beaten.

The exclusion of demons has created such a selfish story.

Because of such an organization, now the Empire is one big country. Wasn't there also an emerging country called the Republic? I was slightly surprised to learn it was swallowed recently.

This is part of the “report” I can do for Garland.

...And, there is one thing I forgot to mention, one thing I couldn't say. But, it is one thing I want to say.

...Thank you.

Why?

You might think there is not much for me to thank you for. But anyway, thank you so much. You protected me, and gradually helped me become “human” properly. (TL: *As opposed to a beast or slave/object*)

There were times that were painful, but maybe that's why I was able to meet many people. I think it is thanks to people like you, that I am able to live.

Thank you very much.

Thank you for holding out a hand. Thank you for giving me a warm daily life.

Thank you for protecting me. Thank you for giving me the feeling of joy.

Thank you for helping me...Thank you very much.

My life until now was a painful one, but that was a year staying with good people.

...Even if it's not through a glass, I really wanted to tell you properly rather than in a graveyard. It's terrible that you died while I was sealed. I did not know anything, but that monstrous little girl is alive...that truly is a mystery.

Then, as for what I could not say.

I couldn't say it before when you were alive, was because I was embarrassed and am still embarrassed, even if the results were already visible, though the cause is gone now.

Every time you called yourself "Papa" I would snort roughly...how many times did I need to say I was older!?

No, that's not what I wanted to talk about right now. It is something I have to say clearly.

...I'm a little nervous.

Oh, well, even if you are dead.

...Even from the bottom of hell, I can still hear you saying, "How terrible! Terrible, Hiragi!" like some kind of headache. Somehow, it is kind of painful to remember that like it is yesterday.

I guess you thought you could be a Papa forever.

So what was it I wanted to say?

...Yeah.

I-I liked you.

I thought about telling you just before I was sealed, but at that time it was impossible. I wonder why.

Ah, if I had said something, I could have made it clear.

Actually, I wanted to tell you this. The reason I returned to the Empire was because I wanted to take revenge on the tyranny of Talos V, and also talk to you.

Well, he may have been confused by the words I left. (まあ、今の言葉で困惑してるかもしれないけどね) That's right. I did not intend to show such a practice swing. (そんな素振り見せたつもりないもん。)

Besides, I know you have someone you like. I know that much, just as you know me.

Even rambling like this, I am glad I was able to tell you about such things and about my own weaknesses that I could not previously say.

With this, I can leave the Empire with no regrets. I think...we should go somewhere quickly.

Since I'm in front of my Papa, I think I will mention only one more thing.

Yes, this is the last of what I "want to say."

To Mermila or to the Empire, I do not know when I will next come here. Perhaps I may not return for the rest of my time, so perhaps it is for the better to talk about such things, though I wonder if that is just to justify myself.

That shouldn't be too difficult to understand though.

That said, I think it is quite reasonable.

Besides you who I loved, there is only one other such playful man.

Though I cannot see him as foolish anymore, even when speaking seriously, he says silly things. Do you think that was intentional? (それがもうどうしようもない奴で、まじめな話をしてる時さえおちゃらけようとして。ヒドいと思わない?)

But...he came to help me even in the middle of the Empire, even only knowing for a few days. As always, he was in a good mood and told me he was only late because he had been delayed because he accidentally entered the girls' bathroom, and though he didn't say anything else for awhile he still playfully gave me assistance.

It's a good look on him, keeping silent, please stay that way for a while longer. He's a really strange man. I never thought I would say this about anyone except

for you.

...From the moment I met him, he only gave stupid remarks. Even surrounded by enemies, he was not upset in the slightest.

When I was about to be killed he dove in and extended my life. At that time I meant to sign a temporary contract out of gratitude, but it instead reversed the registration...Can you believe it?

He kept the contract because he wanted a traveling companion?

So we kept on traveling while playing silly games.

There was also a strange encounter, but even including that it was a lot of fun.

It is fun.

Not having to think about too much, just traveling with an obscure goal and journeying with silly interactions. It is an amazingly free, wanderer-like life...for me who has been trapped for such a long time, it is a dream-like journey.

In Mermila, I thought it was bad to linger at the grave too long, so I had said my goodbyes quickly and was about to leave.

As I was quickly captured and brought to the Imperial capitol, I thought that such a carefree journey had been brought to an end. I well understood the selfishness of the man who waited there.

Frustratingly, my power was weakened. Kidnapped, and brought before Talos V. I was terribly afraid. My hands trembled. Why was he still alive...I was frightened just listening to his voice.

It was terribly painful...and I fought back the urge to cry.

Then, that guy came, saying something about coming as a tourist, whatever that meant.

Even though it was just a little feeling, my heart had tightened. To the words of Talos V, he seemed quite relaxed.

[“A hundred years huh, well I guess my hundred steps are not quite as long then...Either way, she’s mine now.” (Shuten)]

I remember his words.

When I was about to ask him about it. Already...my face had turned red like a child...yeah. It was useless.

I will absolutely never let such a thing pass from my mouth, but walk the path before him. But, it's useless. Even saying such a thing, from the beginning I have been heavily dependedent so I will probably fall.

The last thing I wanted to tell you...that's right.

I guess you could say that I have a reason to live my life properly.

As for separating from the past with a word, I do not intend to do that.

But, I think that though I will be mindful of the past I will live in the future.

So, I want you to sleep with peace of mind. There are various things, but I will not drag you into the past. I'm here now because I was thinking I didn't want to be left with regret. I will not forget you? These things cannot be forgotten. But I will not drag on.

...So, with this, goodbye.

And today, since I was not able to greet you while you were alive, I have come to greet you while you are dead. This time I have come to greet you at your grave.

...I decided to not drag things out.

Ah haha, my heart hurts a bit saying goodbye so confidently.

You know, since I was sealed, I couldn't express greetings properly, right?

A-and so, only this one time, I thought, but...

If you stay under the soil...then I can't see your face...?



Chapter 13: Epilogue – the Sweetness of the Road

[Let's go, Together]

{Shuten POV}

"Huh? *Wanted?*" (Shuten)

"The Imperial Academy headquarters was destroyed, one magic librarian was heavily injured while another is still unconscious, so yes, very much so."

(Yatano)

"Well in any case I'm leaving the Empire now so it shouldn't be a problem."

(Shuten)

Overnight, we traveled all the way back to the silver highway.

The response of the pearl piece was southwest, but we returned to this place for some reason. No, it was because we felt like Yatano might be here and Hiragi muttered that I had said something about returning to the store on the way back.

It wasn't me but Hiragi who wanted to meet up with Yatano. I do not quite understand the relationship between the two, but I had agreed to come back to this store after helping her at the capitol yesterday.

Did she want to say thank you?

I really do not understand that person.

In any case, we had traveled back to the Silver Highway which went across the southeast. Last night we had stayed in another house at Reine's abandoned village, so once we got off the mountain we just went back to the silver tiled road.

Oh yeah, that's right; the tiles turned a silvery white when now-destroyed research institute failed to take out and contain some kind of energy. If I think about it, it was a pretty grand entrance at the research institute as well. That researcher, (TL: *Desiree*) where did he go? I wondered if he was killed by Yatano—

Pu~nii (sfx for exhalation of breath followed by a grin)

“Fufufua?...Um, I’d be relieved if you stopped suddenly grinning. Since we’re eating dango it makes it weird.” (Hiragi) Meanwhile, I’m eating with others beside me.

In this situation my elders sit on both sides.

Three people are sitting on a bench and eating Dango, but even though Yatano is a higher-up of the Imperial Academy, it seems that the Wanted man in front of her doesn’t matter.

“So, Yatano can have tea with wanted criminals?” (Shuten) “Well because it is not my job to chase wanted criminals. No, I could catch you, but...I’m almost at the end of my time limit.” (Yatano)

“Huh?” (Shuten)

“What do you mean?” (Hiragi)

“The command of the Marshall will be considerably weakened after this, possibly even leading to a petition of Exclusion, so that the organization can be reborn as a magic librarian-run operation. Huhu, Shuten, you are even more than I anticipated.” (Yatano) Did you use me for the exclusion of the Marshall? It seems that Marshall, yeah you! You are less that useful!

If I look again, Yatano is laughing at you. I feel like the world is far from collapse. (世界崩壊どころじゃない気がするもの。)

“Ah... What do you mean about an Exclusion of Talos?”

“Ah well, since the Emperor has arranged your Wanted status, you don’t really need to hear about such things right now...well, there’s a reason to pursue such things separately from a certain magic librarian.” (Yatano)

“...He~e. It kind of feels like you’re talking about Monocle Baldy with your tremendous aura...!!” (Shuten)

“You are not wrong. Fufu...” (Yatano)

Hahaha, I will kill him. I will seriously kill him dead.

As a strange aura overflowed from me, I did not mind being pulled back by

Hiragi. But Yatano-chan's was still black.

No, wrong, it's just a different kind of game.

"Yatano...how did you become so strong?" (Hiragi)

"Speaking that way, you make it seem like I wasn't strong before." (Yatano)

"In the past you were more cute and innocent." (Hiragi) "Oh..." (Yatano)

I want to hear that story. I tuned in to listen and widened my eyes at Yatano beside me. (耳をそばだてる俺をおいて、目を丸くするヤタノちゃん) Apparently I had not thought through things properly. Even Hiragi was strangely cautious at the first meeting.

Well...it would be kind of frightening if a human you had met long ago had not changed in appearance.

"Do you remember?" (Yatano)

"I'd like to say I didn't, but I really do remember it, honestly, I was afraid you still dressed like that." (Hiragi) "...um, yeah. I am aware." (Yatano)

At Yatano who smiled slightly as if in trouble, Hiragi sighed.

Things will become troublesome if there is any part held back like this.

However, it seems like something between them has been resolved.

"So what will the two of you do now?" (Yatano)

"Currently I am still searching, though this time I feel like going in a south-western direction, so I wonder if we will be entering the Professor country." (Shuten)

"...I too, have decided to come and go." (Hiragi)

What's with those words of resignation.? It's a nice trip. A meandering journey is lovely isn't it? Although there is technically a purpose.

"Oh my" (Yatano)

"W-what..." (Hiragi)

"It's nothing. Fufu." (Yatano)

"Are you getting angry? T-that's the impression I'm getting anyway." (Hiragi)

Hng, Hiragi bent over like she was in pain. Keep your power in moderation
Yatano-chan, it's hard to straighten out after bending over to your navel.

“By the way Yatano, what's up with Desiree?” (Shuten)

“Desiree has currently been summoned by the Emperor. Certainly...about the research institute. As for the object you are searching for together, I will help you out. It would be beneficial for both of us.” (Yatano)

“If you are seriously saying that Yatano-chan, then don't hesitate to depend on me.” (Shuten) (本気で言ってるんだとしたらヤタノちゃんを肩車したりおんぶしたり高い高いすることも辞さない)

“Ah, please don't say it like that.” (Yatano)

Yatano smiled somewhat shyly, her cheeks curving gently.

But anyway. Being officially recognized, I will hunt down that scummy Emperor. I will return with my full strength.

“Oh yeah, you should leave this country as soon as possible; the fourth and sixth seats are coming back, and the first and ninth seats who are out of the country on missions will return soon. At that time, you who destroyed the Imperial Academy facilities will be targeted.” (Yatano)

“Uhhh, aren't the magic librarians a matched set? Why are you in the middle of such enforcers?” (Hiragi)

It's not at such a level to be a joke.

Let's go. Quickly.

...Even so, it was quite uncommon for the magic librarians who are supposed to be scattered among the populace are coming back to the Empire soon.

“Hey Yatano. Are you going to protect us?” (Hiragi)

“No? Telling you straight, it was Shuten who broke into the Imperial Academy HQ and also who destroyed the Institute.” (Yatano)

“Then, why are you meeting with us in such a place?” (Hiragi)

“...That aside, this doesn't mean the army will come for Shuten anytime soon. Rather, they have been busy with other things.” (Yatano)

Yatano easily answered the question of Hiragi who was finishing off her dantos. I'm grateful to have missed, but isn't Yatano only at a disadvantage in saying so much?

I'm doubtful, but there are some worrying points. (なんて疑問が沸くんだが、それ以上に気になる点が一個あった)

"Is that why magic librarians rarely gather together?"

"I am little concerned Shuten knows such details about the magic librarians, but its generally like that. Of the ten magic librarians, four were injured. This is something that shouldn't happen." (Yatano)

"...Besides Grendel and the Eighth Seat, two others were seriously injured?" (Shuten)

"The Fourth and Sixth seats have been brought in with heavily injured bodies...This morning they met up with a criminal...and, I missed it." (Yatano)

"Oioi, Yatano-chan missed something...Huh? Fourth and Sixth Seats?" (Shuten)

I noticed something.

The opponent whom the fourth and sixth seat had fought against together, was also missed by such a powerful person like Yatano-chan. It might be ridiculous, but I feel stuck on the idea the enemy was probably...

[No, I'm a human being~. I am currently being chased by the 4th and 6th Seats, but I'm about to lose them anyway. Above all I wanted to meet you] (Veloce from Ch 9)

Ah.

That gothic Lolita with the twin drills...!!

"Monthly salary of 2 million gold...that would feed about 20 Hiragi's..." (Shuten) (TL: *I mistranslated this in an earlier chapter as 200 million. That would feed a lot more Hiragi's! xD*)

"I just heard some unpleasant measurements." (Hiragi)

"What is the current strength of Desiree, Yatano?" (Shuten) "Isn't it about 10

Hiragi per second?” (Yatano)

“What’s ten per second!? What’s ten per second!?” (Hiragi) “The strength to kill Hiragi 10 times in a second. By the way, 1 ‘Hiragi’ is not the same as a Hiragi.” (Yatano)

“That’s extremely rude!!” (Hiragi)

“By the way, what did you mean by monthly salary?” (Yatano) “Don’t mind it Yatano, just something from the other party I met the day before yesterday.” (Shuten)

“Are you ignoring me!? Hey, are you ignoring me!?” (Hiragi) Leaving aside the noisy Hiragi, Yatano and I went on with our conversation.

If it was Veloche whom I met the other day, she could certainly crush two magic librarians and escape from Yatano.

“...I wondered why the ‘Mentor’ (導師) of the Demon King’s Army was here, but if it’s because of the monster Shuten I can understand it a little bit.” (Yatano)

“Oh well, whatever. I wonder if I will be picked up and treated as one of the four Heavenly Demon Lords.” (Shuten)

“...What is it like, being a Heavenly Demon Lord? What do you do?” (Hiragi)

“Isn’t it an intermediate manager?” (Shuten)

“That’s...too bad.” (Hiragi)

I guess they were fighting until this morning. Why are her remarks so carefree then? Yatano-chan seemed to have a painful look on her face. It was definitely an expression of an intermediate manager whose work had increased.

“Alright then.” (Yatano) (よいしょと *sfx for a grunt of effort, but...*)

After Hiragi became slightly bewildered, Yatano-chan stood up while I was still finishing up eating my dangos.

“I will have to leave soon for the gathering. I hope we can meet up again someday.” (Yatano)

“I feel embarrassed.” (Hiragi)

“...So, you are leaving already?” (Shuten)

“Fufu, it seems that at this time in my life, goodbyes are likely.” (Yatano) (ふふ、今生の別れには、ならなさそうですけれど)

Slowly opening the umbrella, she clicked her sandals.

Her way of turning was as usual, and I smiled in spite of myself.

“Well, until the time we can meet again, I look forward to your next level of strength.” (Yatano)

“The goal is 100 Hiragi per second.” (Shuten)

“What is that number!?!” (Hiragi)

Hiragi narrowed her eyes as though she felt threatened. Yatano-chan bowed slightly as she stepped away.

I thought the sound of her geta echoing in the distance faded away like a dream.

After watching a few birds pass over in the sky during a momentary silence, I murmured;

“...Haah. Yatano-chan. I wonder how long it will be until I get in a fight with her?” (Shuten)

“I don’t know about that. So you want to fight?” (Hiragi) “No, I don’t...I just wish I was at a level I could fight Yatano and those like her. Since this search will take quite awhile, it is not good to only level when necessary.” (Shuten)

I put the last dango in my mouth.

There are still so many powerful people in this world. Unlike me whose level would be low if not for the pearl pieces, there are a lot of guys who have tremendous raw strength.

Moreover, Desiree appeared to have been enthralled with absorption.

How else can I say it, I don’t know what will happen from here on.

What exactly is the Professor country spending so much time waiting for?

Large events have been occurring up here in the Empire. (帝国でここまででかい

ことがあったんだ) In this world where the pearl pieces are scattered, I don't really know what I will see from here on.

...Oh, I'm looking forward to it.

I feel like an incredible journey is waiting for me.

"Hey Shuten?" (Hiragi)

"Hmmm?" (Shuten)

Looking next to me, I saw Hiragi looking upwards, her gaze following the trajectory of a flying bird, her legs and tails shaking.

"You know, here, what I wanted to say, but didn't, because" (Hiragi)

"What is it, so suddenly. A death poem?" (Shuten)

"Who's going to die, this idiot demon!" (Hiragi)

Hff, and she snorted roughly. I thought that this was pretty normal banter, but her cheeks were uncomfortably red. What are you trying to say?

Only Hiragi would say "Lovely! Embrace!" for no reason.

Though if she said such a thing I would doubt it was the original before accepting.

Actually, the contents might be the Four Heavenly Kings of Water. (実は中身は水の四天王かもしれん) No, that's a different game.

"...really this idiot." (Hiragi)

"Yes, yes, my bad. And, what is it?" (Shuten)

"Eh~. And, what I was saying...that. That is" (Hiragi)

"Just say it and don't hesitate." (Shuten)

"Fine I will!" (Hiragi)

Don't keep averting your eyes then.

After focusing, she still had a youthful blush on her cheeks...No, she's older. I always forget.

'Um, and, but, and, because, and.'

It was that Hiragi (about 200 years old), who was trying to arrange her words in a meaningful way.

What do you want to say. Hey. Tell me already.

“Um...Shuten!!” (Hiragi)

“What is it?” (Shuten)

As I wondered with my mouth shut, her cheeks continued to be flushed, while even her fox ears were redder than usual. Her eyes were also slightly moist, making me feel kind of embarrassed. What kind of revelation was this going to be.

“...um, th..anks” (Hiragi)

“Ah?” (Shuten)

“That’s why! Thank you for your help!! Three times you’ve saved my life!!” (Hiragi)

“.....” (Shuten)

“What are you doing tilting your head like that, hold out your fingers and count!! Unless you had taken me out from that rock I would have been dead! Unless you had helped me from being hit again in the forest I would have been dead! I don’t know what would have become of me if you had not come to the academy at that time! Yes, three!!” (Hiragi)

“...Ah” (Shuten)

“What is ‘Ah’!! That strange tone of voice!!” (Hiragi) “No, that rock is news to me.” (Shuten)

“Is that all you have to say!?” (Hiragi)

I was scolded. Filled with anger, Hiragi rose from the bench.

“Thanks Ms Matilda, we’ll come again!!” (Shuten)

“See ya” (Matilda)

As soon as I thanked Ms. Matilda she returned to the back of the building, while Hiragi and I headed out to the silver highway. I don’t know what damaged the mood, but that certainly wasn’t my intention.

Later.

“Hiragi, that’s the wrong direction.” (Shuten)

“Tsu~~~!!” (Hiragi)

She made a gradual U-turn.

“Just kidding.” (Shuten)

“Thi-this playful man should just die!? Hey!!” (Hiragi) “No, well, what?”
(Shuten)

With a hostile attitude, hiragi dared threaten the person right in front of her.
I think I saw her half-crying face.

It’s so fun to tease this person, I’m glad I brought her on my journey.

Also, I’m glad I could help her.

Thinking about it carefully, it seems I cared enough to jump into an unknown situation like that. More than I was aware, there is no doubt something has crawled into my heart. Taking that into consideration, doesn’t that mean such feelings rise in my heart too easily?

I cannot put it into words.

“From now on I’ll be relying on you, Hiragi.” (Shuten) “Wha...hey what are you saying!? I will say this now!? You are...really...really...that’s it!! A playful guy! An aggravating guy!” (Hiragi)

“Ah, hey” (Shuten)

Like a boiled octopus, down to her neck turned red, and this time she vigorously turned and walked away.

Fuu~ I don’t really get it, but I never get bored with her.

In the direction the clouds flow there is our next destination, though there is a port to go to first. It’s a fun trip on a ship from there.

There are ten pearl pieces remaining. Our journey has just begun.

“Hiragi, this way, really.” (Shuten)

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaahhhh!!” (Hiragi)

Side Story 1: Passion of a Female Book Agency

Official

The story behind how the Nine-tails acquired clothes I, am Shakti!

I always do my best to keep up, even if I'm a small girl!

I left the countryside in order to become a magician of the Empire, and it has been three years since then.

A turning point came when I turned 15 years old...That was when I became a troop member of a Magic Librarian of the Imperial Academy, one who is cool and kind and strong like some kind of prince...That would be Grendel!!

That said, I do not see him much since I'm just an underling.

Ah, but you know, you know!

One time I bumped into someone while turning a hallway corner, making my documents scatter on the ground...

"Oh, s-sorry!" (Shakti)

"It's fine, are you okay? As long as you are alright, everything is fine."
(Grendel)

"Kyun..." (Shakti)

What!!

This person!! This is the Prince!!

The magic librarians are supposed to be cornerstone of the Imperial Academy which only consists of ten people, and it should be impossible to bump into one and then have him crouch down to help me pick up scattered documents...

And yet,

"Hmm?" (Grendel)

"T-thank you!...Ah" (Shakti)

“Yes?” (Grendel)

We casually touched hands~~~~!!

Aah, my Prince...!

How shocking, I had a crush!

Perhaps this is the start of a fateful encounter...!

Someday become love...still, I...!

Anyway!

Besides that, as ordered by headquarters, I traveled to Hanahana Forest on the southeastern border of the Empire.

The main corps led by Grendel will arrive later while we the second division entered as the advance group, but...it's dark and slightly creepy.

I want to go home soon.

Though, in the report it seems that an abnormally large monster variant has appeared. You wouldn't think Grendel would lower himself to such an errand, but the division leader Grendel is just coming along to make sure we can take care of it ourselves.

I can't show bad leadership before the troops, I want him to be proud of me, so let's do our best! Put out fighting spirit!

But, while I was proceeding through the dense forest...there were no reports from the first division.

The first division should have been ahead, scouted out the situation, and reported back to us. Huh? Did something happen?

I think they might be in battle, but if so that seems really scary.

But protected by Grendel, him asking [Are you okay?]. The thought made me smile every time I turned around. I-I...!

“Huh, t-this is?” (Shakti)

Before I noticed, the surrounding members had disappeared.

Eeeh!?

What is this!? Perhaps, did I get lost!?

“It missed...?” (Hiragi)

“Hiee!?” (Shakti)

I couldn't put any words together. Searching hurriedly for the source of the noise, it was above me. It flew down from the sky somehow!!

Is that a demon!? With fluffy fox ears and tails!?

“Ttteeeee!? Eh!? E-everyone!?” (Shakti)

“They cooked well.” (Hiragi)

“You cooked them!?” (Shakti)

Huh...Wha-what...!?

N-no way, this black charcoal is...

“Well, this is fine.” (Hiragi)

“W-wha!?” (Shakti)

“Take it off.” (Hiragi)

“Huh...?” (Shakti)

“Take off your clothes, and I won't kill you.” (Hiragi) “Eh?” (Shakti)

Th-th-this is a deadly situation with a demon...?

Fluffy ears stared at me right before me, but though fluffy, the Nine-tails is scary and everyone has been killed...n-no I haven't really seen a corpse...but this my first time feeling such a fear of death!

“U-um” (Shakti)

“Take them off quickly. Do you want to be cooked?” (Hiragi) It was also my first time being told to take off my clothes with the threat of death.

Nnn!!

I was scared and did not want to expose my skin like this!!

I peeled it off, sobbing.

“Hmm, you use a good fabric, Imperial Academy.” (Hiragi) Hnng.

Well then, I'm off. Thank you for the clothes." (Hiragi) ...Uuu

No more...no more.

The Nine-tails leapt away and disappeared. Now that I think about it calmly... why was there a nine-tails...I do not understand anymore...I wonder if I tried to commit suicide if Grendel would stop me.

The story behind Shuten and the female bathroom I am Shakti!!

I always do my best to keep up and be energetic, though I am a little girl.

Longing to become a magician for the Empire, I came out from the country three years ago.

The turning point came when I was 15 years old...that is, when I met the kind and strong prince of the magic librarians at the Imperial Academy...meaning Grendel!!

...Though when we were suddenly attacked by a nine-tails and I lost my clothes, Grendel seems to have been injured.

At that time, he seems to have fought another demon in addition to the Nine-tails, and apparently, the former had enough strength to bisect the monster variant in half.

Since when has the Hanahan forest been filled with such monsters?

At that point I wanted to cry so much, but even though I was naked I endured it and ran away! Even if I am called an exposure madman, I will not cry!

I cannot show Grendel such an undignified face!

...And so, after some time passed.

On the way home after finishing the scrolls reporting the investigation of the Kuchiinu, the deputies have confirmed its death.

I needed to visit the toilet, so I headed to the one on the third floor from the fourth floor.

On the way, I was a little surprised to hear Grendel mention a trespasser. I don't think it is good for the security department to allow any kind of invasion in the Empire, even if it to the Imperial Academy.

I should hurry to the bathroom because my stomach hurts.

I am surely nauseous and chilled to the bone because I remembered about that Nine-tails. I will never forgive that demon.

No, even if I can't do anything, I will not forgive you...

Just die by the prince's hand! If Grendel is involved it will be a single blow!

As I thought about such things, I found that all the stalls were closed.

Why is it crowded when it is not even break time? I think its coming up soon.

When I thought about it, I could hear someone breathing coming from one of the stalls. Her breathing seems ragged.

...What are you doing? I wonder if she has an upset stomach.

Suddenly the voice was enveloped in urgency. What's wrong?

"...!!?!?!"

"Should I enter-...?" (Shakti)

It's not like me, but maybe I should enter.

Is she okay?

But there was no response from the other side. There was only the noise like someone was being murdered...she must be really sick to her stomach.

I wonder if I should call someone.

But if that's not it, then it would be annoying.

Even if I am sorry to bother, the voice has stopped, and the other toilets are closed. The number of people behind me waiting is also increasing, what should I do?

No, even if I suffer because of it, I cannot help but just open the door...sigh.

In the meantime my stomach is still hurting.

In any case you should come out early. If you come out, then we can consult and decide if we should call for some help.

I do not want any misunderstanding.

And that was when I stopped needing to worry about it.

The door opened swiftly.

It was a sweating demon with a nice body.

“Hiii~!?!?!?” (Shakti)

“Nu~oryaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!” (「ぬうおおおうりゃあああああああああああああ！！」) I was grabbed by the back of the head, wait-wait-wait a minute I didn’t mean to bother you-why is a guy coming out of the ladies’ toileeeett!!

“Meteor Strikeee!!” (Shuten)

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” (Shakti)

What kind of name is that for a technique that strikes a girl’s face on the bathroom seat!!

How rough.

“Hey, sorry ‘bout that...still hurts... but Hiragi...!! Wait...for me...!!” (Shuten)

Eh, what kind of heroic words are those. It is not the words of a man who came out of a girl’s toilet.

I was struck by you, you know.

...Perhaps I am now stuck in the toilet seat?

Isn’t this impossible?

...I cannot do anything to free myself?

.....

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” (Shakti) (TL: *poor girl. I’m so sorry*)

After Story

I am Shakti!!

I always do my best to keep up and be energetic, though I am a little girl.

Longing to become a magician for the Empire, I came out from the country three years ago.

The turning point came when I was 15 years old..Not only was I the only one

stripped down among the troops I belonged to, but I got my face stuck in the toilet seat and bothered Grendel with the rescue. It is different than its supposed to be.

...That would be the magic librarian of the Imperial Academy, the kind, strong and cool Prince...the one whose troops I was assigned to!!

The abrupt meeting with Grendel after running into him around the corner at headquarters...I only want to think about that...but Grendel seems to have forgotten.

What is this? Grendel who caught a glimpse of me smiled. How pleasant, just remembering it will make me soar.

“Oh, Toilet-chan.” (Grendel)

“Please stop with that nickname!” (Shakti) (TL: *may your reputation RIP*)

...Yes, for him the memorable encounter with me is of the woman with her face stuck in the toilet seat.

The impression was quite strong!? I didn't think it would be so strong.

Because, I had hoped for a better destined encounter.

“Hmm, how should I call you then? I am also curious about the time that you were stripped down by the Nine-tails.” (Grendel) “Why do you know that...!?!” (Shakti)

“Your friend told me.” (Grendel)

“Guaaaaah!” (Shakti)

sob sob

Ah, but. I can walk next to the person I admire, while I carry the paperwork.

Grendel is a bit more natural than I expected, but he is still strong, gentle, and nice.

Even if it is because of that sort of thing, I am honored that Grendel remembers me.

“There is another examination. I will have to leave here, Toilet-chan.” (Grendel)

“It’s Shakti...!! (Shakti)

“Hahaha, I get it, Toilet-chan.” (Grendel) “Uuuuu...” (Shakti)

Since I’ve said it many times, she should surely remember my name is Shakti. So, I will do my best to avoid trouble and remove myself from that dishonorable nickname Toilet-chan!!

Arc 2 Character Introductions [Or, a Further Prank]

A Demon's Pleasant Companions

Shuten (Oni)

LV: 40 +Pearl Pieces: 3 = LV equivalent to 115

Right arm: Demon Slayer

Left arm: None

Head: None

Torso: Master Kinagaishi

Legs: Geta of the Karasu-Tengu

Height 185cm (6.06ft) **Weight** 78kg (172 lbs)

Age: Previous life 19 years old, this life 23 years old

An Oni with black hair and two twisting black horns. Although he originally lived in a mountain of “Japone of the Far East,” he was caught by the [Mad Wizard] Gaius and his hometown was destroyed. After that, it seems he does not want to talk on that subject. On a messy romantic journey, he always deflects to others. A genuine joker, breaker of serious moods.

[12 *Hiragi/s*]**

Hiragi (White Nine-tails) LV: 36 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 36

Right arm: Silver bracelets

Left arm: None

Head: None

Torso: Hand-altered military uniform Legs: Hand-altered military boots (brown) **Height** 162cm (5.31ft) **Weight** 60kg (132 lbs) (Including tails) **Age:** 204 years old, appears to be 18 years old

A demon deemed troublesome by the Empire a hundred years ago and sealed by a certain person.

Once the seal was violently undone by Shuten, she visited the Empire with him. After arriving at Mermila in order to satisfy her feelings towards a deceased benefactor, she was captured by Talos II who showed an ugly obsession. Then, she was rescued by the playful ditz of a demon which reaches the current Hiragi.

[1 Hiragi]*

Grimoire Lancer Hero's Party

[Protagonist] Crane (The Child of Light) LV: 27 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 27

Right arm: Flail

Left arm: None

Head: 'Reflective' Earring

Torso: Chain Mail

Legs: 'Booster Leg'

Height 172cm (5.64 ft) **Weight** 58kg (128 lbs)

Age: 15 years old The main character of Grimoire Lancer II. Originally a farmer, he suddenly inherited the power of the Child of Light when the previous generation died. At his root is goodness and kindness, and he has a heart of justice. Even though he is the new Child of Light, his potential is just as great as his predecessor.

His recent troubles is getting ridiculed from early morning onward as he brutally trains with Rudius. He has increased his bathing to twice a day because of it.

[1/3 Hiragi]

Rudius (Prince of the Kingdom) LV: 24 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 24

Right arm: Banishing Blade

Left arm: Sand Dragon gauntlet

Head: Earring of Offense

Torso: Gray Scale

Legs: Sand Dragon Greaves

Height 177cm (5.8 ft) **Weight** 68kg (150 lbs)

Age: 15 years old As the Prince of the Kingdom, he is the strongest swordsman. Renowned as a natural talent, Rudius with his red hair is often thought of by his people as a dragon knight before a Prince. He persuaded Crane who arrived to the Kingdom with the sign as the Child of Light to fight against him, and finally recognized the magic user's existence after his defeat. With unyielding confidence.

He hated being seen working hard, but because he has encountered an existence beyond the clouds he is no longer pretending not to train.

[2/5 *Hiragi*]

Haruna (Braver/Adventurer) LV: 22 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 22

Right arm: Wind staff

Left arm: 'Safety ring'

Head: Spiritual veil

Torso: Light monk's robe

Legs: Wish Anklet

Height 146cm (4.79 ft) **Weight** 40kg (88 lbs)

Age: 14 years old Rank F Braver of the Principality.

This fledgeling has continued to grow and increase in strength, and has now become the healer of the party. For some reason Crane was concerned about her, though she herself was not very aware of it. Trying to make the most of her time with them, she has been strength training with Rudius.

[¼ *Hiragi*]

Magic Librarians of Imperial Academy's Book Edge Section **Yatano** (Third Seat)
LV: 214 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 214

Right arm: Grimoire (Umbrella)

Left arm: 'Baltzar'

Head: Abyss Bell Ornament

Torso: Indigo Kirin (TL: *Kirin=far east unicorn/chimera/dragon beast*) Legs: Anklet of the Holy Mother Spirit Divine Phenomenon [???

Height 125cm (4.1 ft) **Weight** 35kg (77 lbs)

Age: 107 years old, appears to be 8 years old

One of three major cheat characters in the Grimoire Lancer series, as acknowledged by the developer. She is generally gentle as long as honorifics are not used, and a free spirit. Even the First Seat has given up trying to incorporate her into the chain of command. However, this is permissible because she easily has the power to take on an Imperial Battalion by herself. Her favorite food is sweet dango.

[200 *Hiragi/s*]

Desiree (Fifth Seat) LV: 68 +Pearl Pieces: 1 = LV equivalent to 93

Right arm: Grimoire (Naginata)

Left arm: Genji's Gauntlet

Head: River Eye

Torso: Uniform of the Magic Librarian Legs: Magic Librarian's leather shoes Divine Phenomenon [Ancient Refining Blade Edge Rising Forge]

Height 185cm (6.07 ft) **Weight** 78kg (172 lbs)

Age: 23 years old Fifth Seat of the Magic Librarians of Imperial Academy's Book Edge Section, and Honorary Director of the Imperial Research Institute. Among one of the Empire's research institutes that are at the cutting edge of imperial magic, he is a genius who managed to isolate and artificially activate the magic of the magic librarians using his own technology. Often at a disadvantage due to his origins, through his own ability he obtained strength and achievements. Courteous to his subordinates, he could easily be considered the most or second-most popular person in the Imperial Academy so long as demons are not involved. However, currently, he seems to only be focused on killing Shuten.

[10 *Hiragi/s*]

Bennetta (Eighth Seat) LV: 51 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 51

Right arm: Grimoire (Ocarina)

Left arm: None

Head: None

Torso: Uniform of the Magic Librarian Legs: Magic Librarian's leather shoes
Divine Phenomenon [Capital Letter Blazing Prison Color]

Height 164cm (5.38 ft) **Weight** 52kg (114.6 lbs)

Age: 18 years old Eighth Seat of the Magic Librarians of Imperial Academy's Book Edge Section. Commonly known as Ocarina coward. Originally from the Republic, the area she lived in was occupied by the Empire. Although it had become a colony under suppression, she had lived without inconvenience. But when the Holy Order of Dragon Knights from the Kingdom attacked with the intent of expelling the Empire...her hometown was annihilated during the assault as even demon troops got involved. Since then, she has hated the Kingdom and demons, and came to Empire's side.

[3 *Hiragi*]

Grendel (The tenth seat) LV: 48 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 48

Right arm: Magical Glove

Left arm: Magical Glove

Head: None

Torso: Uniform of the Magic Librarian Legs: Magic Librarian's leather shoes
Divine Phenomenon [Great Three Elements]

Height 175cm (5.74 ft) **Weight** 65kg (143 lbs)

Age: 17 years old Imperial Academy's weakest magic librarian. Skilled in field command, he is an honest man who doesn't distinguish between virtue and public service. But people who ask him for strength as if they are being chased by something are considered a nuisance.

Naturally, this created a pattern where he remained unaware of people falling

unconscious or getting hurt. Having been taunted by Desiree, this is not his intention. Recently, the cause behind his stress is that the headquarters was broken while an honorable senior he admires is coming soon.

[2.5 *Hiragi*]

Makai Underground Empire Army Intelligence Division **Veloce** (“Mentor”) LV: 210 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 210

Right arm: ‘Clock Parasol’ (TL: *may also be “Glock” parasol*)

Left arm: Sealed ring

Head: Hair ornaments of Godspeed

Torso: ‘Gloria’ (Dress)

Legs: ‘Gloria’ (Boots)

Ancient Magic [???

Height 153cm (5.02 ft) **Weight** 44kg (97 lb)

Age: 15 years old Makai Underground Imperial Army commander, commonly known as third in the Demon King’s Army. A girl who obtained the title “Mentor.” While still 15 years old she inherited the magic “Form” from her family’s bloodline, a magical power that reveals extraordinary skills. In addition, she has surpassed the level inherited of three generations of her father’s and grandfather’s line, and is considered a genius of the present age. However, it seems currently she is concentrating on finding talents to fill the army shortages rather than exercising her capabilities. How can she befriend that strange demon?

[280 *Hiragi/s*]

Other

Kurunea (Goddess) LV: 875 +Pearl Pieces: 0 = LV equivalent to 875

Right arm: None

Left arm: None

Head: None

Torso: T-shirt with [Call on your Extreme Idol (偶像を極めし者)] written on it

Legs: Rubber sandals (*Probably flip-flops or possibly sneakers*)

Height 171cm (5.61 ft) **Weight** unknown

She is trying to gather all the pearl pieces through Shuten (of course) in order to repair the broken mana tank. She knew his whereabouts but didn't think too highly about his actions, and so with anger left on her hands she tried learning break dancing through tutorial videos. As the number of replays became absurd, she felt something unfamiliar begin to blossom in her as a dancer. Recently she has been watching Shuten while practicing her "Poppin' and Rockin.'" (TL: *uh what?*)

[1000 *Hiragi/s* or more]

* 1 *Hiragi* = same power level as Hiragi ** 1 *Hiragi/s* = Power to hunt 1 Hiragi per second

AN: As a bonus, I am planning on putting together a blog and other things where I will put the pictures with the artist who originally drew it.

Though if you'll notice, on the desk "of a poor author's daily life" I haven't seen if there was a name...I didn't see...

Shuten



Hiragi



Desiree (Top-left), Grendel (Bottom-left), Yatano (Right)



Thanks for the Illustrations!!

Side Story 2: Rotten (Loli + Old Hag) = ?

Wanting to take a nap on the Wendell Plateau, Shuten left where he was residing, passed through the Hanahana forest, and came to the plateau. (TL: *timeframe for this is unclear*) As Hiragi had no good memories on the plateau, he would occasionally spend some days alone there without telling her where he went, before eventually returning to where they were staying.

The grasses of Wendell Plateau rustled softly.

Since I visited for the first time this place has not changed.

“Yup, it’s nice weather.” (Shuten)

Once Shuten was certain he was alone, he stopped at the center of the plateau and dropped the Demon Slayer.

On the high plateaus where the sky is close, it is a place with delicious clear air, and the feeling of grass beneath his feet.

As Shuten leisurely thought about such things, he stood next to the Demon Slayer and looked up at the sky.

The ration of blue to white is roughly 3 to 1. He never tired of watching the fast-moving clouds.

The breeze passed through the blue above Shuten, while the scent of the green grass tickled his nose. Occasionally wind-blown leaves danced in the sky, creating a fantastic and lovely sight.

It is a season with a naturally temperate climate, and is more frequently sunny than rainy. The light from the sun shone pleasantly and warmed Shuten’s entire body.

“Ah... how nice...every once in a while...” (Shuten) Thinking about it, he could not remember taking a day off and traveling happily like this.

Taking a long absence and fully rejuvenating vacation.

Although there is great danger of being attacked, Shuten didn’t seem to care.

If he dies then he dies, and so on. In the past he had died, and now he was a strong man. So it was difficult for him to be cautious. If a monster feels the aura of this guy they will be too scared to even get close.

There was a warm wind in the morning sunshine.

Falling back until he was laying in the grass, he decided to take a nap in the sun. Stretching out his body, he sprawled near the Demon Slayer.

For Shuten who loves such a peaceful atmosphere, he sees no reason not to sleep.

“Good night, world.” (Shuten)

Mumbling out some strange words, Shuten slowly closed his eyes while stretched out.

I think napping is a wonderful thing.

It's a subtle line between consciousness wakening and sleep. It is within that small space where I am the most comfortable.

And so I am grateful from the bottom of my heart to be able to bask in the wonderful sunshine like this.

What's that you say?

Yes, even breathing is pleasant. A soft pleasure pours in every time you inhale and exhale. I want to stay like this all the time. This smooth feeling makes me think that.

Suddenly I heard another's sleepy breathing, as if to assimilate with this world of green grass and become a part of this slumbering space...

Hmm?

Even through half-consciousness I can hear someone sleeping near me.

I opened my eyes a little. As before, the clouds flowed by quickly while the wind blew through. Tilting my head slowly towards the sound at my right ear, I found someone sleeping comfortably there.

Distinctive golden hair with bell ornaments.

Using one of my arms as a pillow, she had curled around like an embryo and

was asleep.

Putting her coat underneath her, it was the mark of a magic librarian.

...This person is.

A long time member and one of the powerful people in the Imperial Academy.

...Though she looks like a simple girl.

A loose indigo kimono, accented with a wide variety of colors. Today she wore yellow and red ribbons.

This girl who exposed an unprotected sleeping face before me was renowned as one of the strongest magic librarians of the Empire, Yatano Fuso Arclight.

It is impossible to move without it being noticed by her, so this was all I could do.

I still cannot notice Yatano-chan's presence, and I do not even have the most miserable excuse like she's not putting off bloodlust or whatever.

Either way there is no room for regret, so I decided to mess with that pleasantly sleeping face.

Anyway.

As soon as I decided, I stretched out the young, plump cheeks with my fingers. It was then that Yatano frowned in discomfort but did not seem to wake.

...Yeah

"Nuu~...au...Nnn..." (Yatano)

She seemed to notice when I pulled repeatedly. After scrubbing at her eyes, she slowly turned her blue eyes towards me and focused.

"Good morning. What a terrible way to wake up." (Yatano) "No, shouldn't you not use another person as a pillow?" (Shuten)

"My bad. I didn't notice, Shuten." (Yatano)

Where is the soft girl's face from a few moments ago?

That unfriendly smile seems to be overwhelmed by an unreasonable

intimidation towards the viewer.

But what I said was a completely reasonable complaint about the nap.

“N....ku. Aah.” (Yatano)

Sitting up she stretched. Besides yawning, she looked at me and then sat in a more comfortable position.

“It was a pleasant nap. You could have invited me, I wanted to come with you.” (Yatano)

“A girl your age shouldn’t be showing off her shoulders to the sun.” (Shuten)

“Oh, how cold desu~” (Yatano)

“What kind of demon would invite Yatano-chan from the Imperial Academy? Idiot?” (Shuten)

“You are not going to give up –chan as long as you live are you?” (Yatano)

As I also sat up partway, Yatano turned towards me with a sharp look and pursed lips in protest.

I wonder if it is really only afternoon. The sun shines high in the sky, and dazzles my view.

Twisting around I stretched out my body which had slept on a hard space.

“Aah...I slept well.” (Shuten)

“It’s a nice break isn’t it?” (Yatano)

“So Yatano is on break?” (Shuten)

“Hehe...how about that?” (Yatano)

“Does this little girl not work?” (Shuten)

“You sound like Desiree.” (Yatano)

“In what way am I like that thing?” (Shuten)

Actually I don’t know about what kind of work Yatano does in her position, but to even get into such a position she must have to do work according to her rank.

“By the way Shuten.” (Yatano)

“Hmm?” (Shuten)

“I always use an umbrella, but I’m curious about the axe, and wondered, would you let me use it?” (Yatano) “No, you can’t have it.” (Shuten)

“I just want to try it once. It’s not like I’m going to take it so I hope you give me a chance.” (Yatano)

“And you want me to teach you swing it once?” (Shuten) “Frankly speaking, that’s what I’d like to try, Shuten.” (Yatano)

“Ah, I see.” (Shuten)

I guess it’s natural. No, rather than natural is this more deliberate? Is she kidding with me?

Well, in any case isn’t it fine?

Standing up, I pick up the Demon Slayer.

We’ve been together quite awhile. It’s not like holding an object. Rather, once I grasp I think it is part of my limbs.

“So, tell me what exactly you are wanting?” (Shuten) “I would like to play pretend and swing it down.” (Yatano) “Alright.” (Shuten)

Flipping it blade downwards, I held the handle out to Yatano.

Seeing that she had grasped it curiously, I released my hand.

“...*Nku* (*sfx for inhale*). It’s heavy isn’t it?” (Yatano)

“I’d be surprised if you could lift it.” (Shuten) “What is that supposed to mean?” (Yatano)

Desperately, she tried to yank the blade now stuck in the ground.

However, it seems that it will be impossible for her even with her strength, as even lifting seems difficult.

Her pretty face covered in desperation is a sight to see, but it seems like she will shed tears soon and become angry so I moved to stand behind Yatano.

“Please hold the handle firmly above my hands.” (Yatano) “Yatano-chan’s

hands are trembling.” (Shuten) “Mu...It’s no use.” (Yatano)

Holding the handle outside of Yatano’s hands, I stood behind her forming something like a hug. As I slowly lifted it, Yatano looked up at the axe like she was having fun.

“So this is the view that Shuten always sees.” (Yatano) “Ah~ well. It’s not something really that impressive.” (Shuten)

“It’s just like when I twirl my umbrella.” (Yatano) “...So, what did you want to do?” (Shuten)

I did not want Yatano to compare this to twirling her umbrella.

It seems that she saw me grimace when she looked behind her, and smiled at the sight.

“Alright. I am...ready.” (Yatano)

“Okay. Let’s go then.” (Shuten)

Making sure that Yatano was properly grasping the handle of the Demon Slayer, we began to swing. From there, we wind up. Then, a vertical slash. Then a reverse thrust back over the shoulder. Then circular frenzied swings around the shoulder with great force, before dropping it down.

“It seems like swinging heavy things is fun.” (Yatano) “You can do anything you put your mind to.” (Shuten) “That’s not it, Shuten. I have never done such a thing with my own strength.” (Yatano)

“I’m shaking even now.” (Shuten)

“Hehe...so. This is my ‘power.’” (Yatano)

“Yeah, for now.” (Shuten)

“...That’s right.” (Yatano)

What?

Though she did better than I thought. No, not bad.

Not bad, but it’s likely that there will be a tough future ahead.

“Shuten” (Yatano)

“What?” (Shuten)

“This kind of thing, it’s fun.” (Yatano)

“Is that so?” (Shuten)

“That’s right.” (Yatano)

For a while we relaxed as she smiled in pure happiness.

It was not a bad vacation.

Side Story 3: Yatano's Perfect Stimulation Classroom

Yatano was on the top floor of the Imperial Academy that day. It is the room with the best view of the capitol, and also houses the important rooms such as the Guran and the Magic Librarian conference room.

The place near the large stairwell where it seemed as if the wall had been gouged out on one side was now the favorite spot of Yatano. She responded to the complaints of other members who would get wet in the rain by smiling from under her umbrella.

"It feels nice." (Yatano)

The sunlight coming in was pleasant, and this place had the feeling as if it had been aired out. Regardless of other's sensitivity that she did not understand, Yatano liked this place extremely.

"Hey *&#&% Loli. Why are you working in such a place...isn't this where we found that guy Grendel sprawled with a broken body?" (Desiree)

"I'd be relieved if you didn't say such things deliberately. Besides, it was the Eighth Seat who was here, not me. The rumors from the Fifth Seat cause too much damage to the reputation." (Grendel)

Suddenly hearing such voices, she slowly turned around.

There were two people, the Fifth Seat Desiree McRein and the Tenth Seat Grendel Glyphscale

Today was the day of the meeting with all of the magic librarians, including the sixth, fourth, and eighth seats, who had finally recovered from their serious injuries.

Future policies had been decided, and some members had already left for overseas.

"Desiree's body was also sprawled on the ground after dancing with Shuten at the research institute." (Yatano) "Third Seat, that's the first I've heard of it..."

(Grendel) “Thanks to the large axe and naginata clanging against each other the research institute is an absolute wreck now.” (Yatano)

“Fifth Seat...you also probably shouldn’t say such things about people.”
(Grendel)

“I’m really gonna beat this #\$\$%^& girl who tries to pretend to have good manners to death!!

How am I a lower rank than this thing – tch!? Why does this nasty old hag rise like some kind of storm!!” (Desiree) (TL: *pretty sure this is what he was trying to say, but it kind of derails into gibberish and sounds of annoyance halfway through*)

“I don’t really understand what he is saying right now, but it’s probably because he is a researcher.” (Grendel) “I’m not bothered by it.” (Yatano)

“It’d be helpful if you stopped attributing your ignorance to the fact that I am a researcher, just because you both \$%^\$# can’t understand what I’m saying!” (Desiree)

Even now as Desiree got worked up with words he began to threateningly pull his naginata from his back.

Although this is as usual, nobody would win from such a tremendous battle within the Imperial Academy, so Grendel can only try to smooth things over.

Though the uncontrollable Yatano is not even aware she is fueling the fire.

“Desiree.” (Yatano)

“What is it, ^&#*\$% Loli!!” (Desiree)

“You are the worst of %\$^&, making the ranking of Fifth Seat is equivalent to crap.” (Yatano)

“What are ya tryin’ to say!?” (Desiree)

“It is because you think being the Honorary Director of the Imperial House Research Institute and part of this prosperous Imperial Academy Book Division Agency = crap...or am I wrong?” (Yatano)

“That’s not what I was trying to say!?” (Desiree) “Pft-” (Grendel)

“Ah, Grendel smiled. I will now cut this #%\$^%\$ into three pieces while laughing.” (Desiree)

Like usual, Grendel – glares – to – his – fullest!

But, Yatano’s – attack – is – unstoppable!

“However, it seems you get stronger the longer your title gets, so maybe we should welcome this?” (Yatano)

“What sort of insufferable thing are you saying so seriously!?” (Desiree)

“But, to wear the stigma of crap just to expand your titles...if I were you I wouldn’t want it.” (Yatano)

“I wonder if my words are even entering your head!?” (Desiree)

“Magic Librarian of the Imperial Academy Book Division and Honorary Director of the Imperial House Research Institute Disgraced by a Passing Demon and Head Chairman for the Committee of Shame?” (Yatano)

“Who is disgraced by some passing demon!? What’s going on!? Why have I become a chairman of some unknown committee, and who would even want such a title!!” (Desiree)

“Although, you certainly could make it longer.” (Yatano) “Listen to what I’m saying you #&%\$ Loli!!” (Desiree) “Magic Librarian of the Imperial Academy Book Division and Honorary Director of the Imperial House Research Institute Disgraced by a Passing Demon and Head Chairman for the Committee of Shame as well as the President of Excrement—” (Yatano) “Just shut up!!” (Desiree)

“...pf...pf...!!” (Grendel)

“Hey Grendel. Why are you desperately chewing on your lip and trembling. Since its troublesome just laugh if you want.” (Desiree)

“Hahaha!! Excrement hahaha!!” (Grendel)

“Pointing at a person and laughing!? Do you want me to remind you of the difference in our rank!?” (Desiree) “You were the one who said it would be better to laugh!?” (Grendel)

That’s too much! (あんまりだ !) Grendel’s eyes became round.

However, Desiree who was still trying to pull out his naginata was blushing bright red.

“Furthermore, you can intimidate others with such a ranking.” (Yatano)

“Please give up already Third Seat!! The Fifth Seat is barely restrainable!!” (Grendel)

“It’s just like this nasty old hag to only come out every once in a while otherwise I would be constantly disgusted...!!” (Desiree)

“Desiree” (Yatano)

“What is it now \$%*#\$)*%...!!” (Desiree)

Desiree gripped his naginata as blue veins popped from his forehead, as he tried to maintain his fury. Then, Yatano aimed a serious gaze at him.

“Although you were matched with Shuten, now you would probably not be able to win.” (Yatano)

“No Third Seat!! An argument at this time would only be destructive!!” (Grendel)

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!! I’ll kill you!! Go away Grendel!! This \$%#*\$ Loli!! Even if it is a mistake I will do it!!” (Desiree) “But Desiree.” (Yatano)

“What is it %^&%\$ Loli!!!!” (Desiree)

“There are lots of good things about a person like you.” (Yatano) (そんな貴方にも、良いところはいっぱいあります)

“No Third Seat!! This is not the time for admonishment!!” (Grendel)

“I’ll kill you!! I’ll seriously kill you!! Use the Divine Phenomenon to beat you up!! I’ll take away that immense magical power!! Yuckano F\$%& ArcLight!! Release me Grendel!!” (Desiree)

Desiree struggled against his restraints, as Grendel was desperately trying to suppress him.

As usual, Yatano Fuso ArcLight still did not understand the situation.

“There are lots of good things about you.” (Yatano) “Why did you say it twice...My eyes are swimming!! Surely your fingers are outstretched!?”

You're trying to count these 'good things!?' Even though one is bent!?"
(Desiree)

"There are definitely good things." (Yatano)

"You won't give up!? I give up trying to understand you!? I will seriously beat down this %^\$& old hag!! Release me Grendel!!" (Desiree)

She smiled bitterly. However, the person herself did not notice that her facial expression had changed.

"Right, Desiree." (Yatano)

"What is it now!!!!" (Desiree)

"I'm sorry." (Yatano)

"Even if you apologize now, I still intend to \$%*% murder you!!" (Desiree)

"No, that is, I'm sorry, but I also cannot think of one good thing about Desiree." (Yatano)

"Even if you don't say it, I understand that I am a bother to you!!" (Desiree)

"Stop this Third Seat!! I'm getting sad just from listening!!" (Grendel)

"It's even worse for me Grendork!?" (Desiree)

Desiree who was foaming at the mouth was yelling.

His anger was getting out of control.

Then *pon* Yatano hit her hands together.

"Oh, but Desiree it popular with the ladies in the Book Agency!" (Yatano)

"Haah!?" (Desiree)

"He has good style and a nice face, and I hear that he is not only friendly with his subordinates, but he gets chocolate from many women on

"H-hey...what's with the sudden praise?" (Desiree)

"Ah, but Grendel over there is even more popular." (Yatano) "Why did you even bother!? Why did you lift then drop me!! You really are a nasty old hag!!"
(Desiree) (TL: *wow, I actually feel kind of bad*)

“Even though I praised you?” (Yatano)

“What kind of \$*%*\$ praise is done to embarrass another!!” (Desiree)

Desiree struggled in rage. Holding the reigns tightly around Desiree, Grendel light nudged his shoulder with a hand.

“What is it Grendel!?” (Desiree)

“I won!” (Grendel)

“If you bother to report such a thing before winning then it is a declaration of war!!”(Desiree)

“No, last I heard Fifth Seat was winning. I see, did I really have such prospects...!?”(Grendel)

“So you didn’t realize it before!! Die!!”(Desiree) “Fifth Seat, Fifth Seat.” (Grendel)

“What!?” (Desiree)

“I have a good style and face, it seems to be popular among my subordinates.” (Grendel)

“So abrupt!! You know what, I’ll just \$%\$^*# kill both of you!!” (Desiree)

“Please wait, my men will mourn if I am killed.” (Grendel) “Then maybe you should have thought about that before saying something!! %#*%!!” (Desiree)

It seems like rather than Grendel, it’s just Yatano at fault. ‘That woman is the root of all evil.’

Then Desiree looked forward again.

Yatano is nowhere to be seen.

There was a female staff member in front of him who was looking at him with wide eyes and trembling.

“Ah, Toilet-chan.” (Grendel)

“It’s S-shakti...!!” (Shakti)

Grendel spoke to the female staff member.

For Desiree, death doesn’t matter, but after being called crap, he feels

something like a connection to the girl called Toilet-chan in front of him.

But that doesn't matter.

"Hey...where did Yatano go...!?" (Desiree)

"Th-the Third Seat...j-just told me to stand here and...s-somewhere..." (Shakti)

Oh, is that so.

Did she escape?

At last Desiree's blood vessels bulge to breaking point.

"Yaataanoooooooooooo!!!" (Desiree)

Desiree's screams reverberated through the halls.

As this was not unusual, the staff members only thought was that it would be best to not approach Desiree for now.

What are you trying to say?

The Imperial Academy is peaceful today.